ROBERT KIRKMAN DAN MORA MIKE SPICER

TRANSFORMERS

image

#30

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE THIRTY

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TRANSFORMERS #30. MARCH 2026. PUBLISHED BY IMAGE COMICS, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: PO BOX 14457, PORTLAND, OR 97293.

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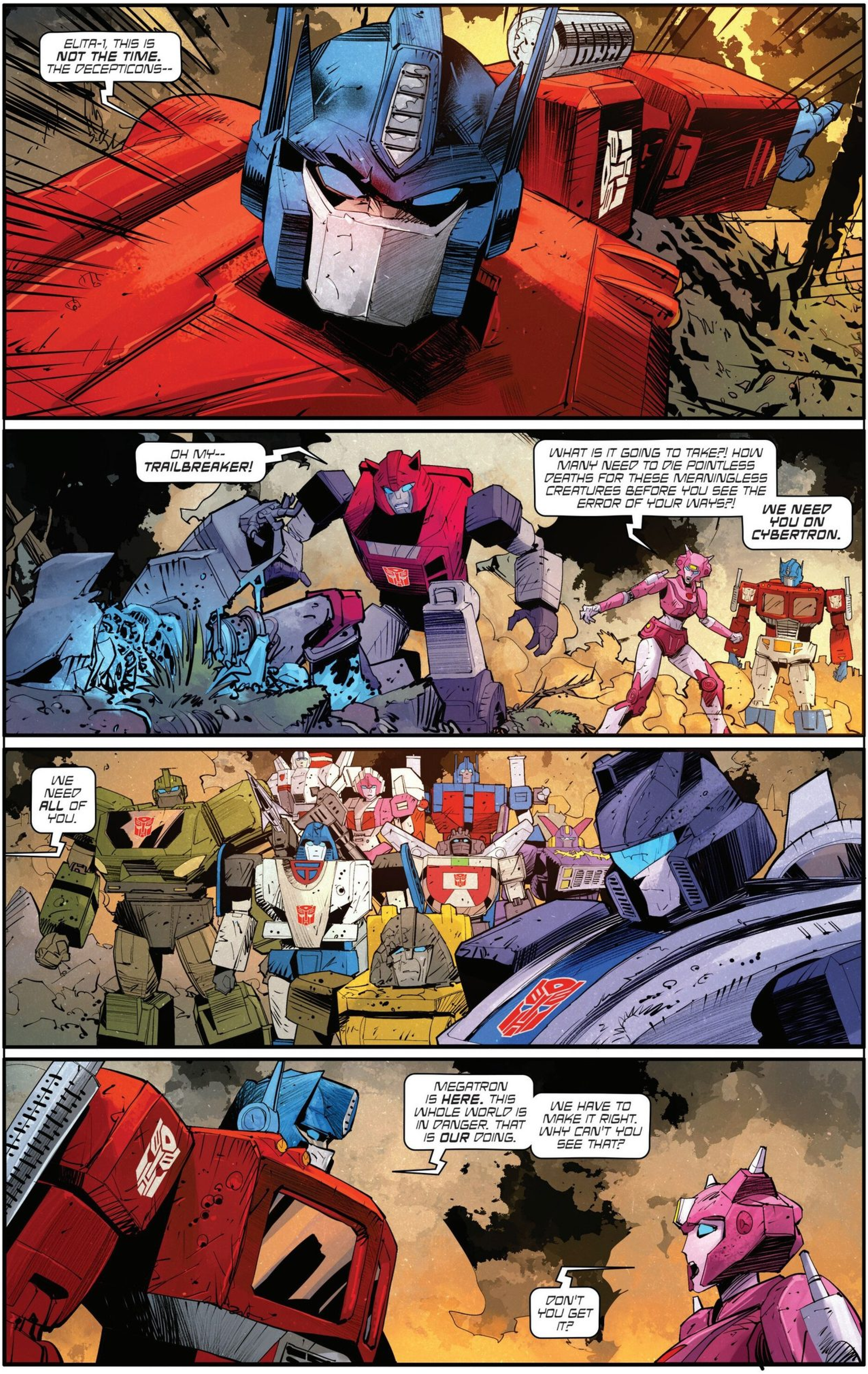
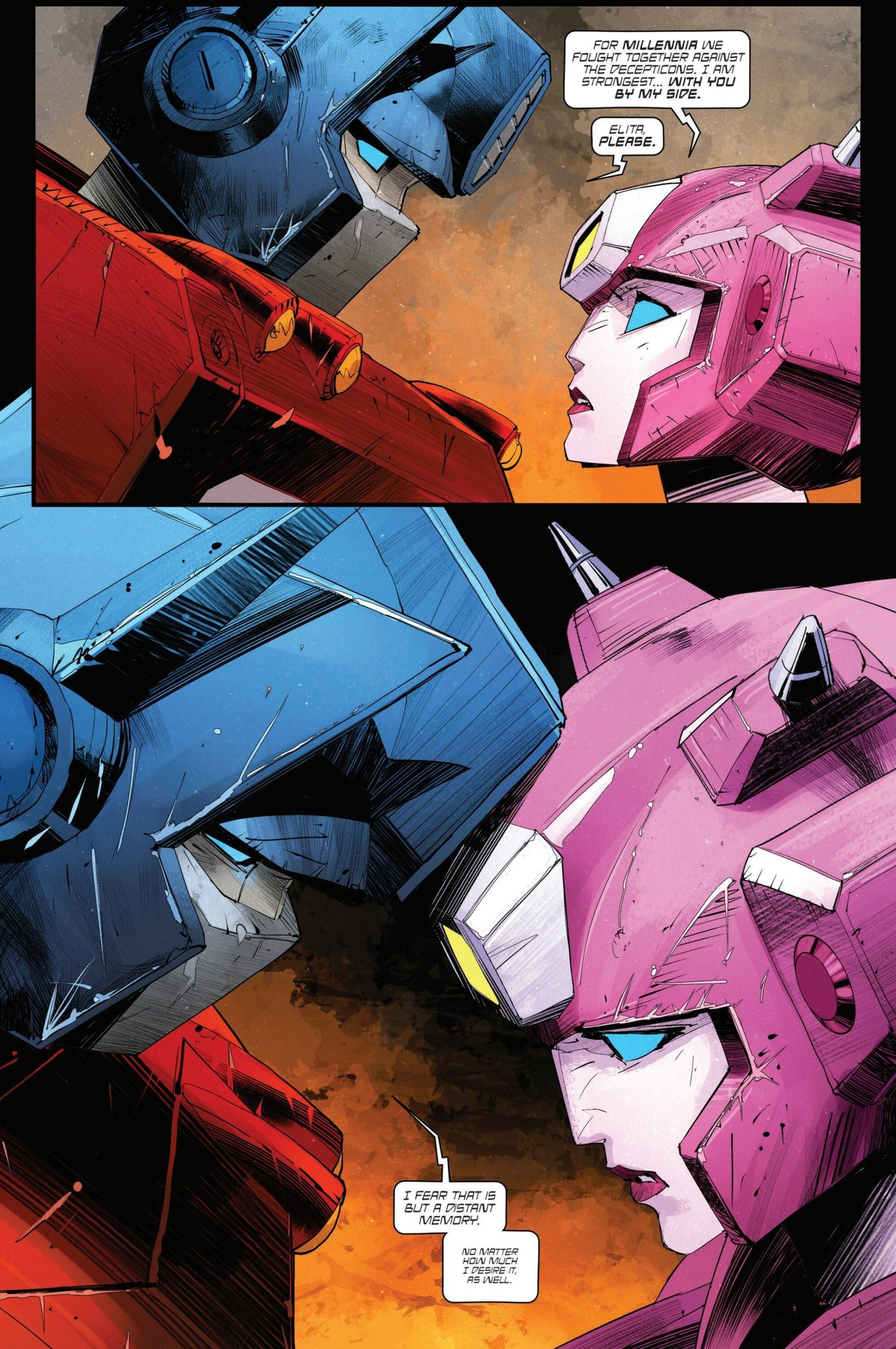
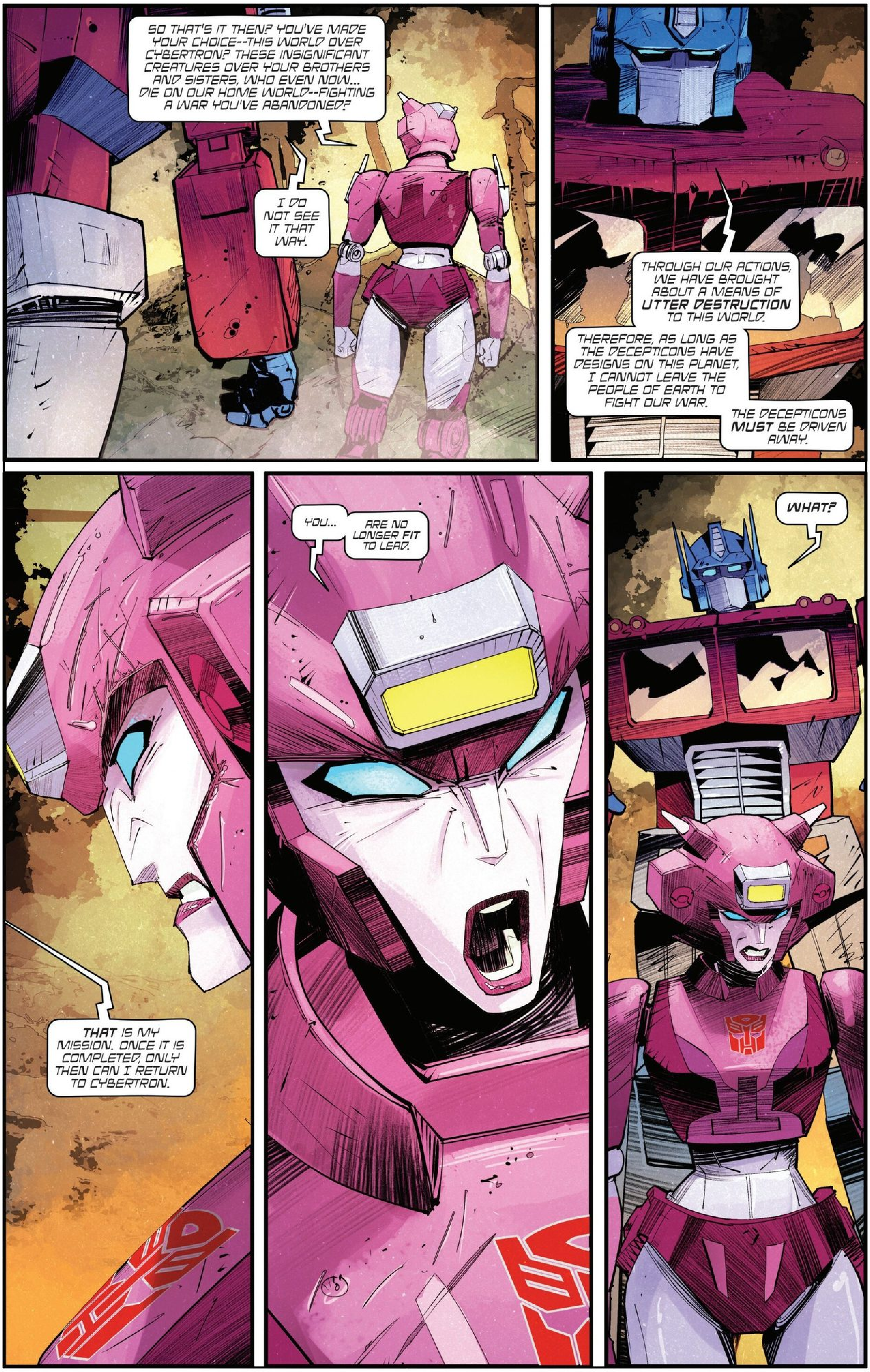
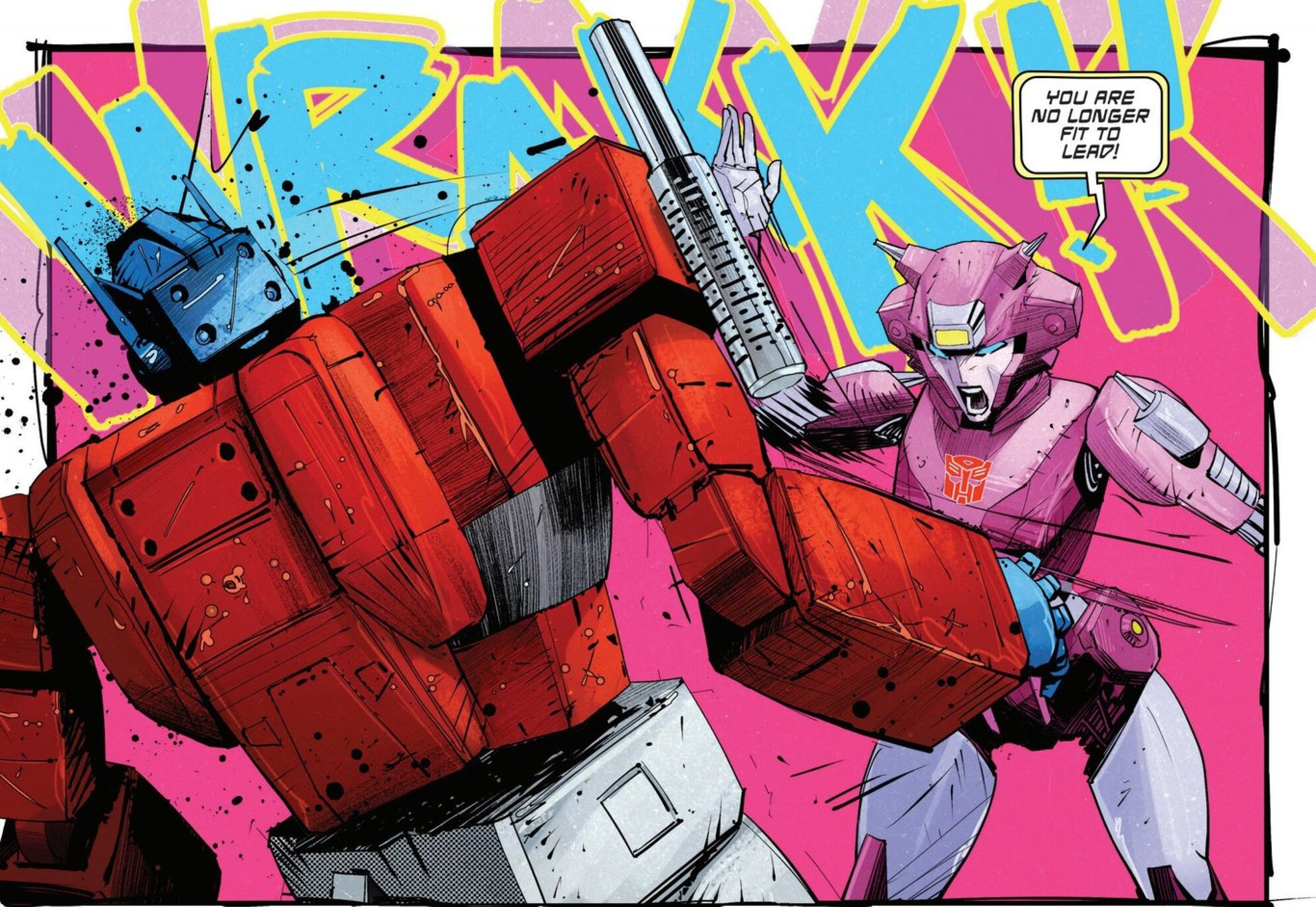
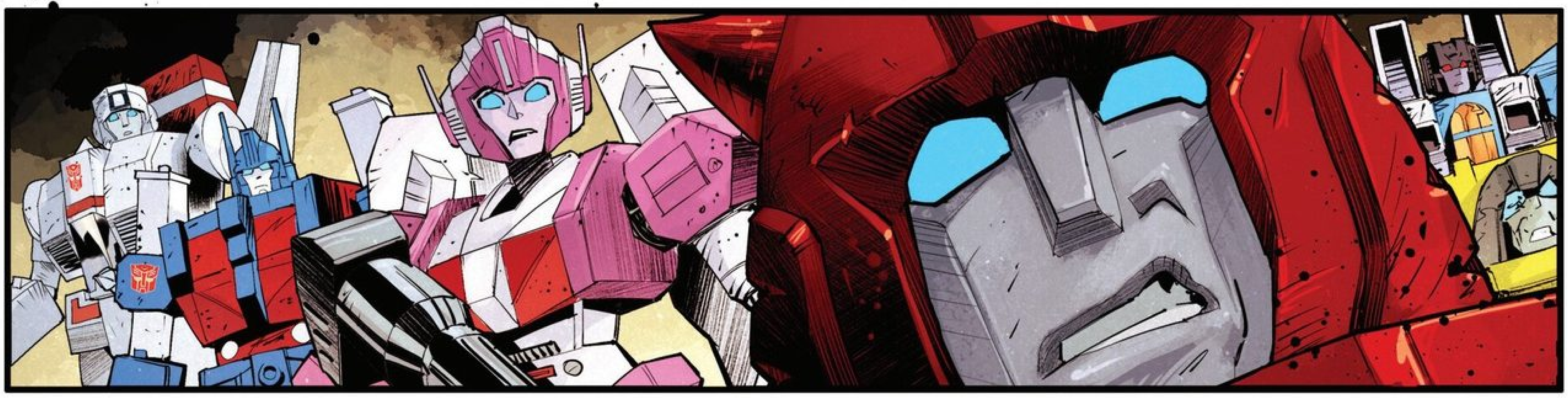
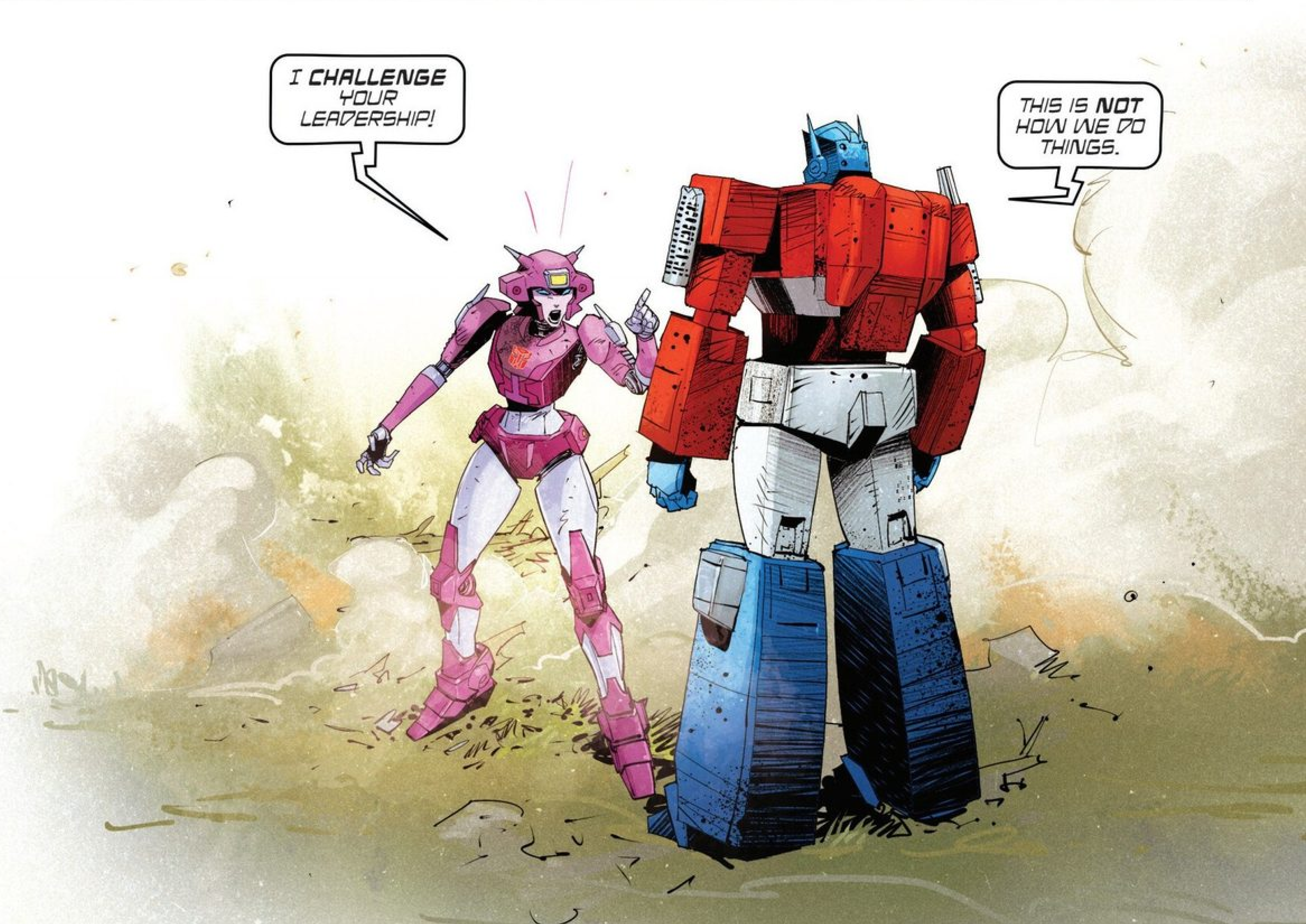

ELITA-1, THIS IS **NOT THE TIME.** THE DECEPTICONS--
OH MY-- **TRAILBREAKER!**
WHAT IS IT GOING TO TAKE?! HOW MANY NEED TO DIE POINTLESS DEATHS FOR THESE MEANINGLESS CREATURES BEFORE YOU SEE THE ERROR OF YOUR WAYS?!
WE NEED YOU ON CYBERTRON.
WE NEED **ALL** OF YOU.
MEGATRON IS **HERE.** THIS WHOLE WORLD IS IN DANGER. THAT IS **OUR** DOING.
WE HAVE TO MAKE IT RIGHT. WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?
DON'T YOU GET IT?

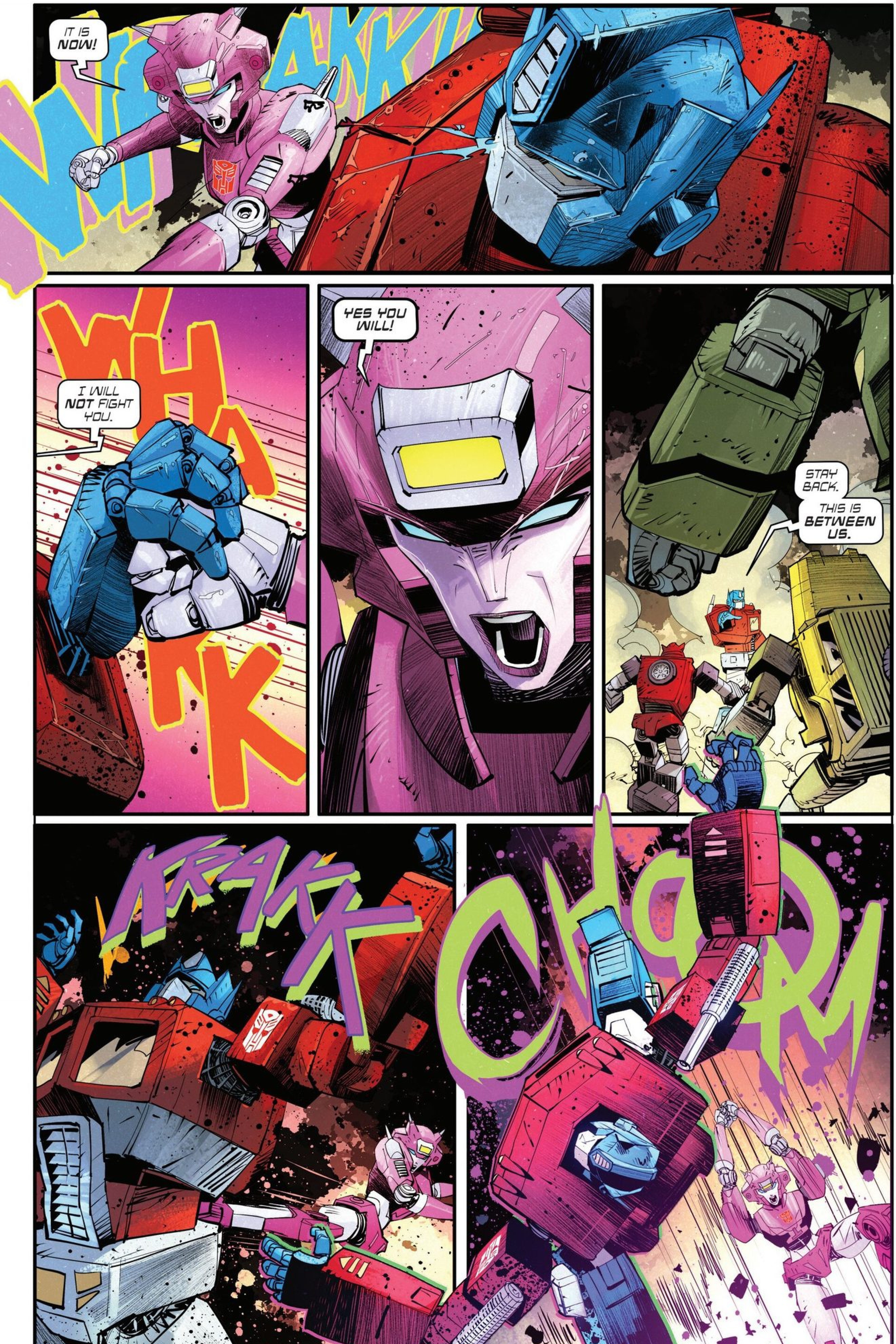

FOR MILLENNIA WE FOUGHT TOGETHER AGAINST THE DECEPTICONS. I AM STRONGEST... WITH YOU BY MY SIDE.
ELITA, PLEASE.
I FEAR THAT IS BUT A DISTANT MEMORY.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I DESIRE IT, AS WELL.

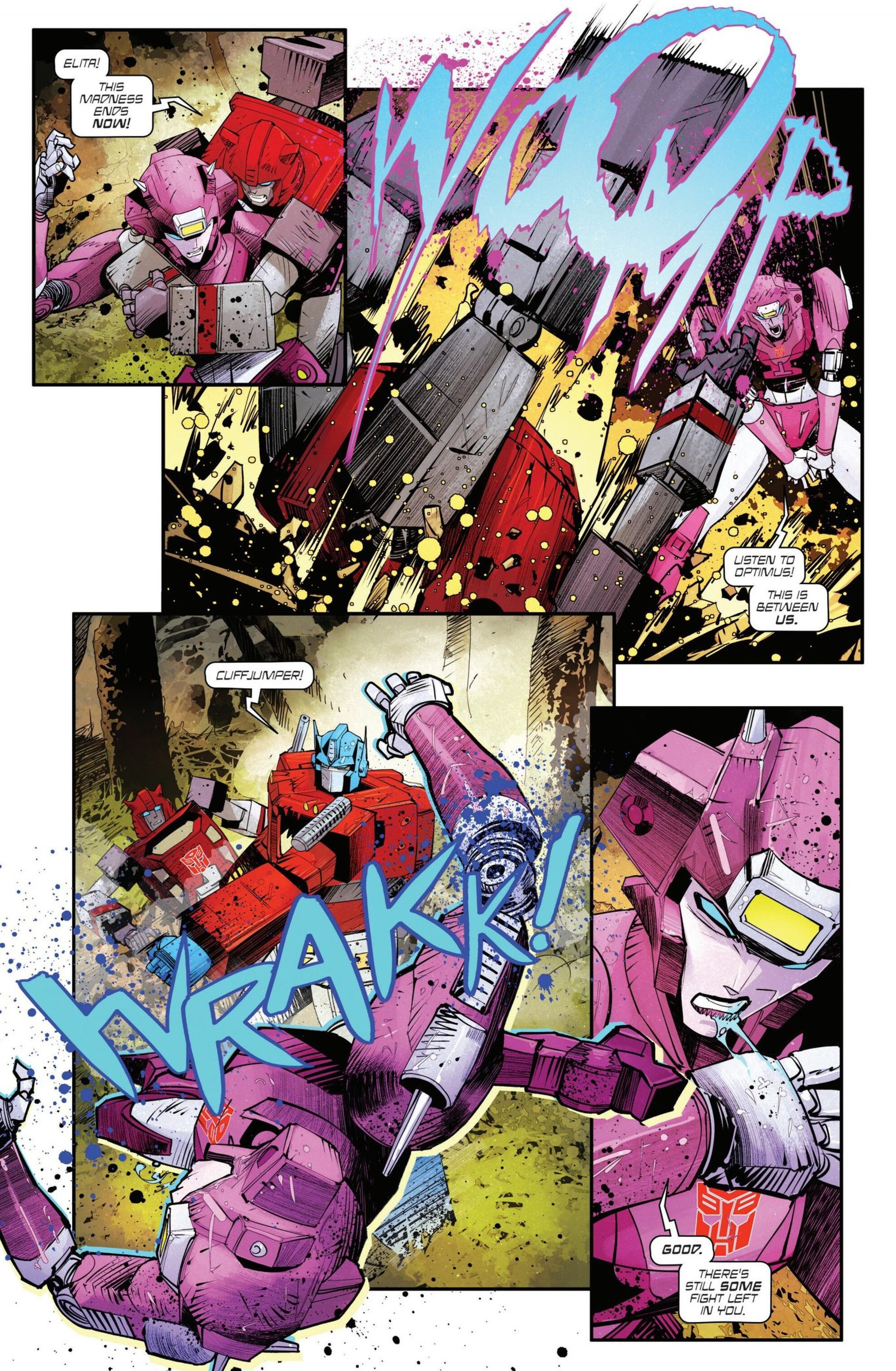

SO THAT'S IT THEN? YOU'VE MADE YOUR CHOICE--THIS WORLD OVER CYBERTRON? THESE INSIGNIFICANT CREATURES OVER YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WHO EVEN NOW... DIE ON OUR HOME WORLD--FIGHTING A WAR YOU'VE ABANDONED?
I DO NOT SEE IT THAT WAY.
THROUGH OUR ACTIONS, WE HAVE BROUGHT ABOUT A MEANS OF **UTTER DESTRUCTION** TO THIS WORLD.
THEREFORE, AS LONG AS THE DECEPTICONS HAVE DESIGNS ON THIS PLANET, I CANNOT LEAVE THE PEOPLE OF EARTH TO FIGHT OUR WAR.
THE DECEPTICONS **MUST** BE DRIVEN AWAY.
THAT IS MY MISSION. ONCE IT IS COMPLETED, ONLY THEN CAN I RETURN TO CYBERTRON.
YOU...
ARE NO LONGER **FIT** TO LEAD.
WHAT?

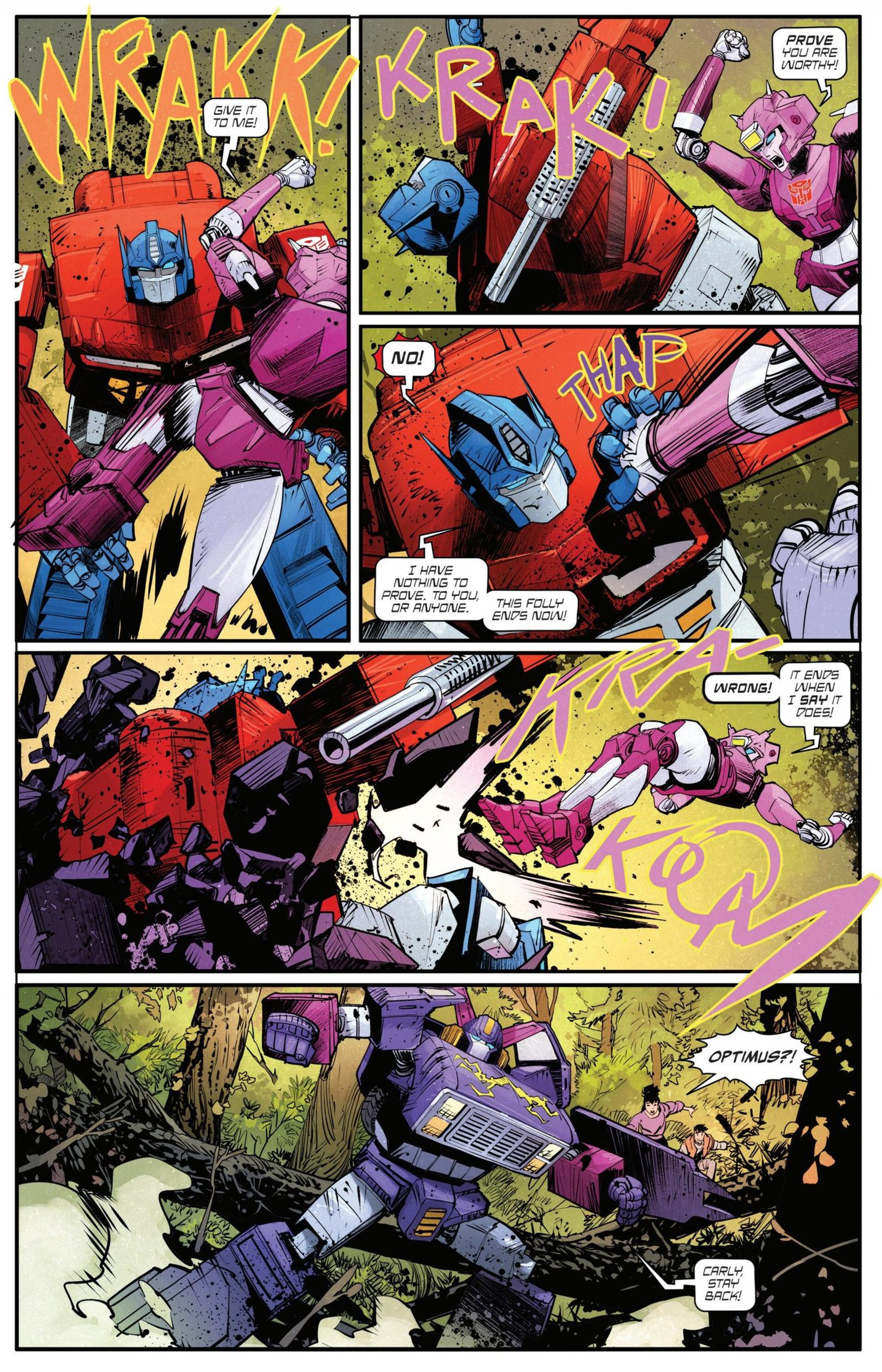

WRAKK!!
YOU ARE NO LONGER FIT TO LEAD!

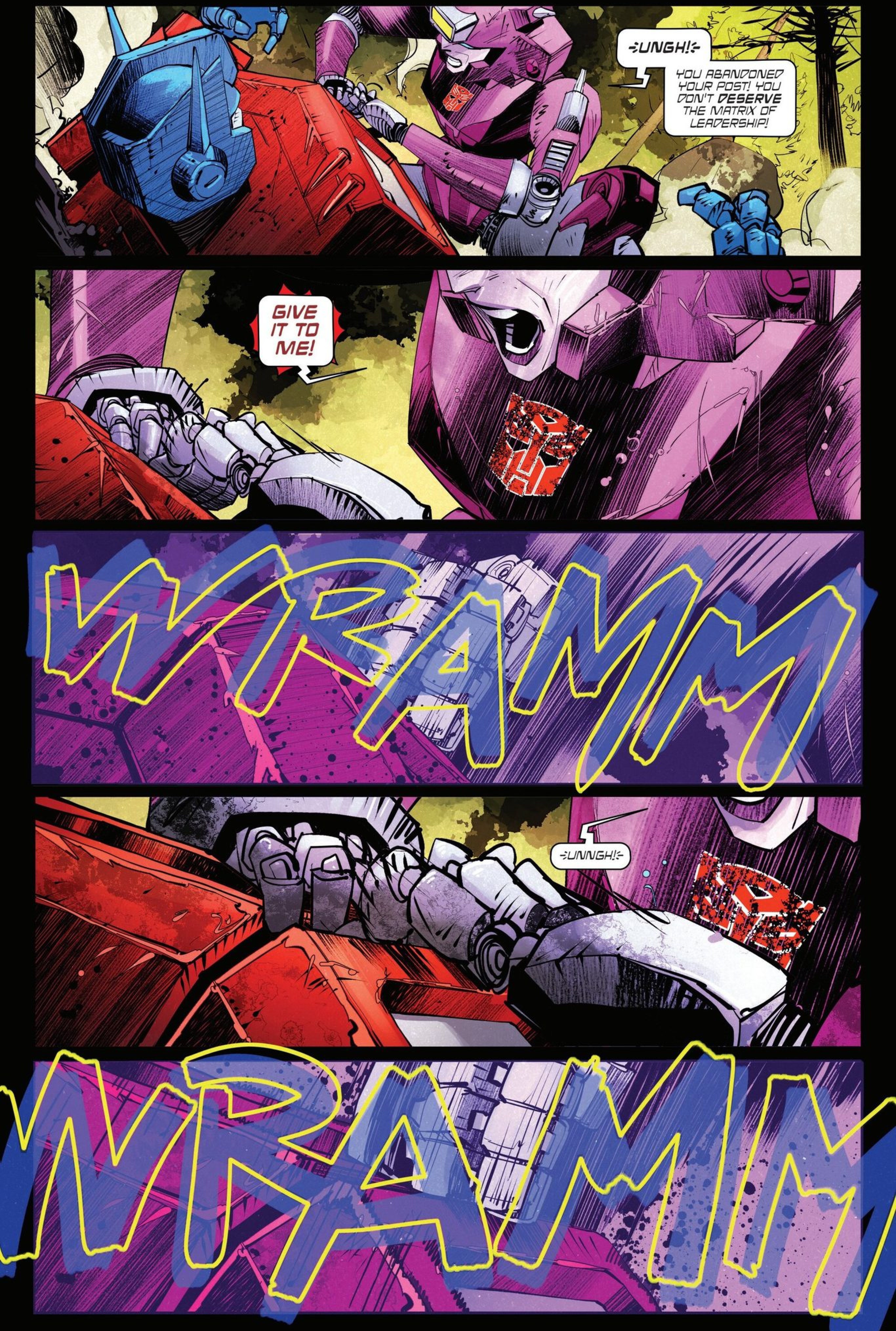


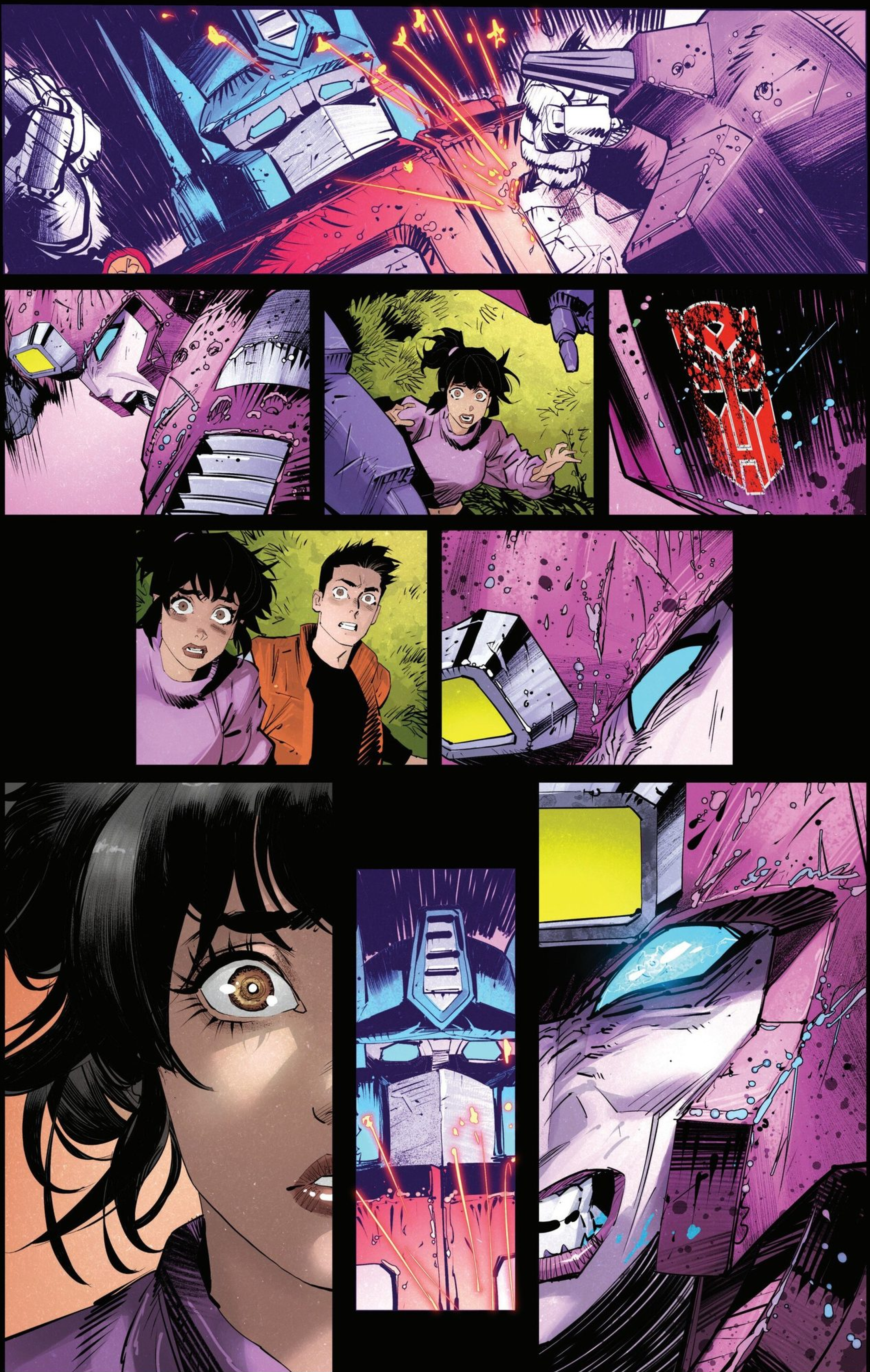

I CHALLENGE YOUR LEADERSHIP!
THIS IS NOT HOW WE DO THINGS.

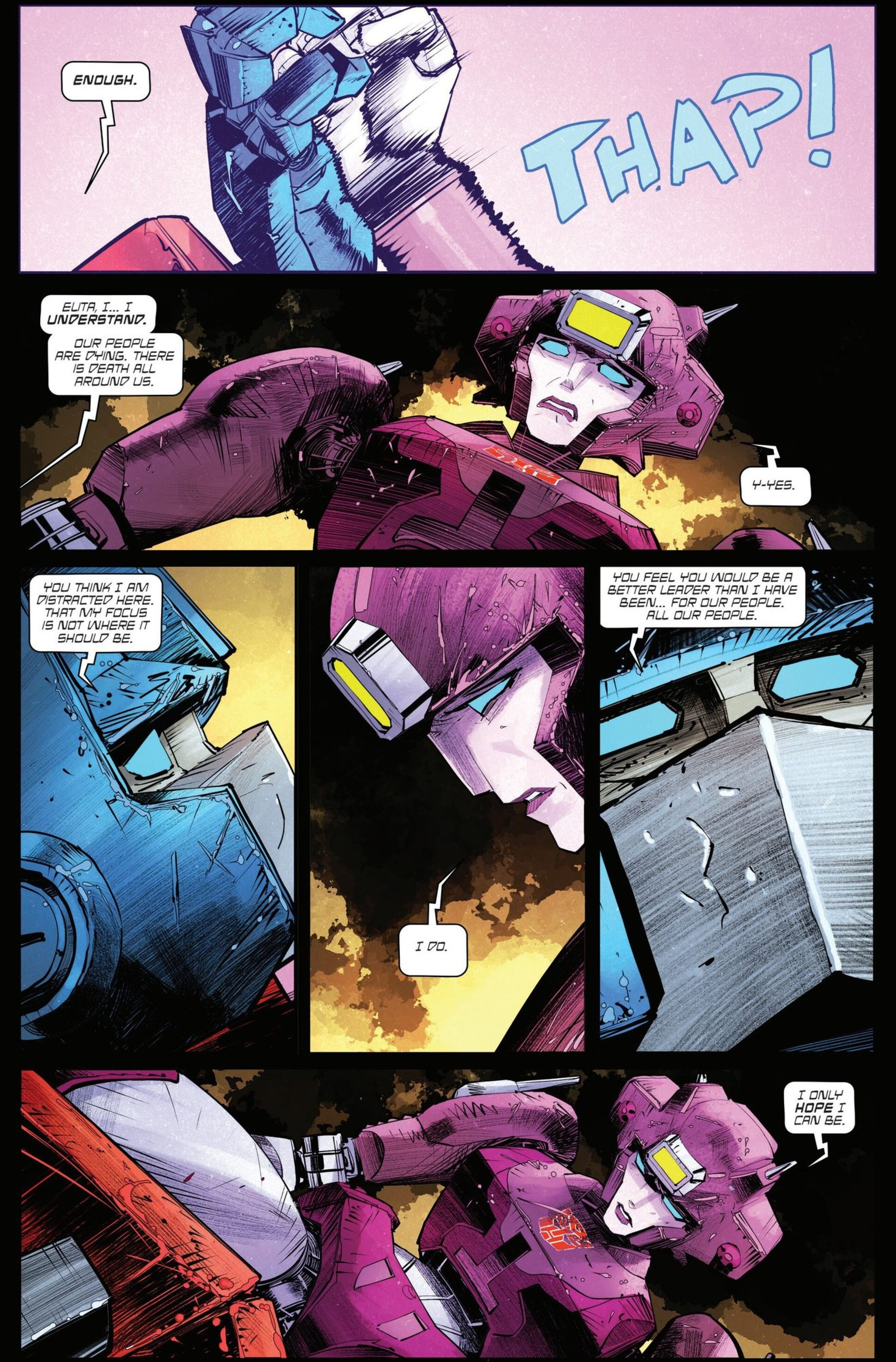

IT IS NOW!
I WILL NOT FIGHT YOU.
YES YOU WILL!
STAY BACK.
THIS IS BETWEEN US.
KRAKK

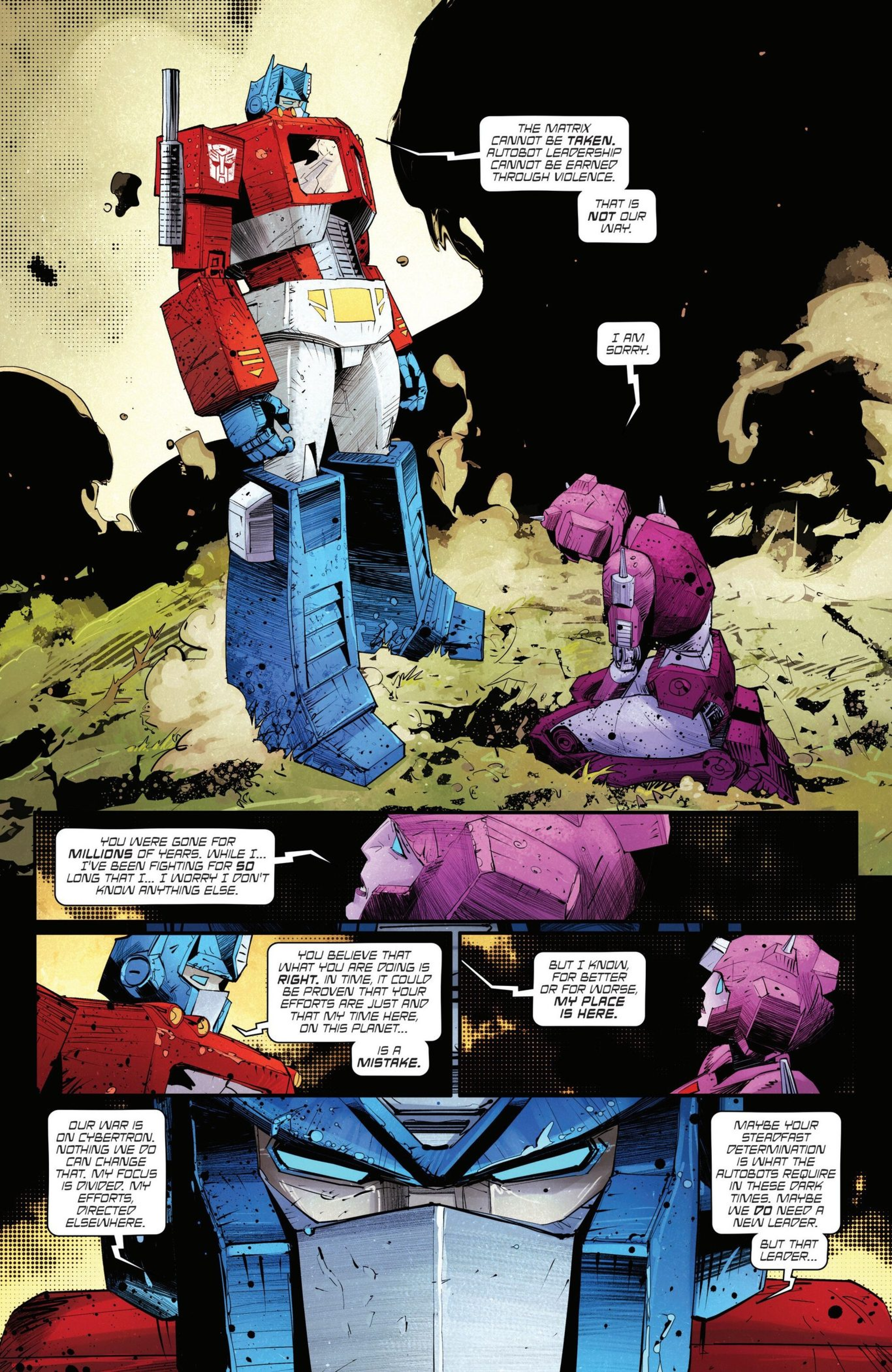

ELITA!
THIS MADNESS ENDS NOW!
LISTEN TO OPTIMUS!
THIS IS BETWEEN US.
CLIFFJUMPER!
KRAKK!
GOOD.
THERE'S STILL SOME FIGHT LEFT IN YOU.

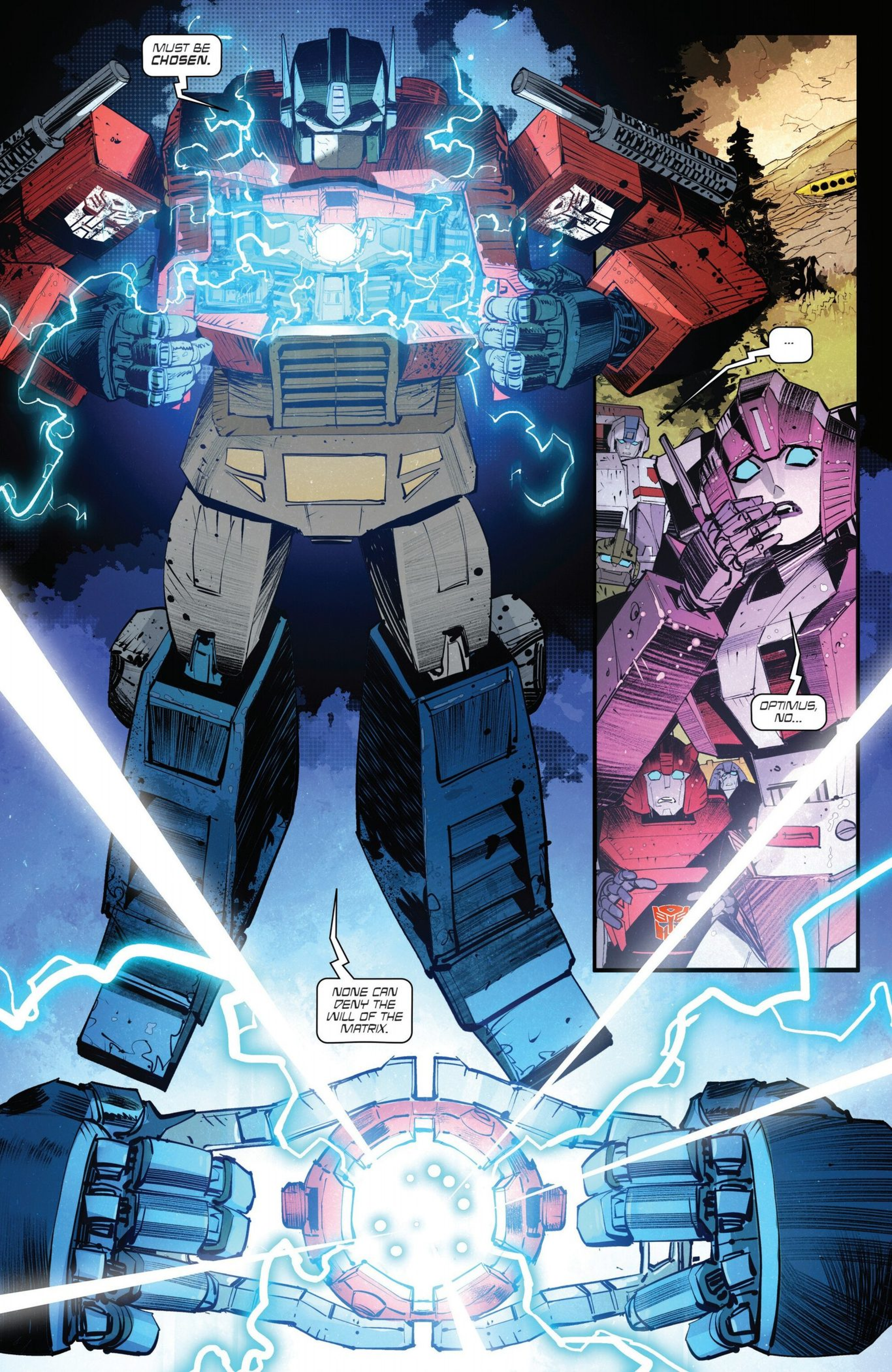

WRAKK!
GIVE IT TO ME!
KRAK!
PROVE YOU ARE WORTHY!
NO!
THAP
I HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE. TO YOU, OR ANYONE.
THIS FOLLY ENDS NOW!
KRA-KOOM
WRONG!
IT ENDS WHEN I SAY IT DOES!
OPTIMUS?!
CARLY, STAY BACK!

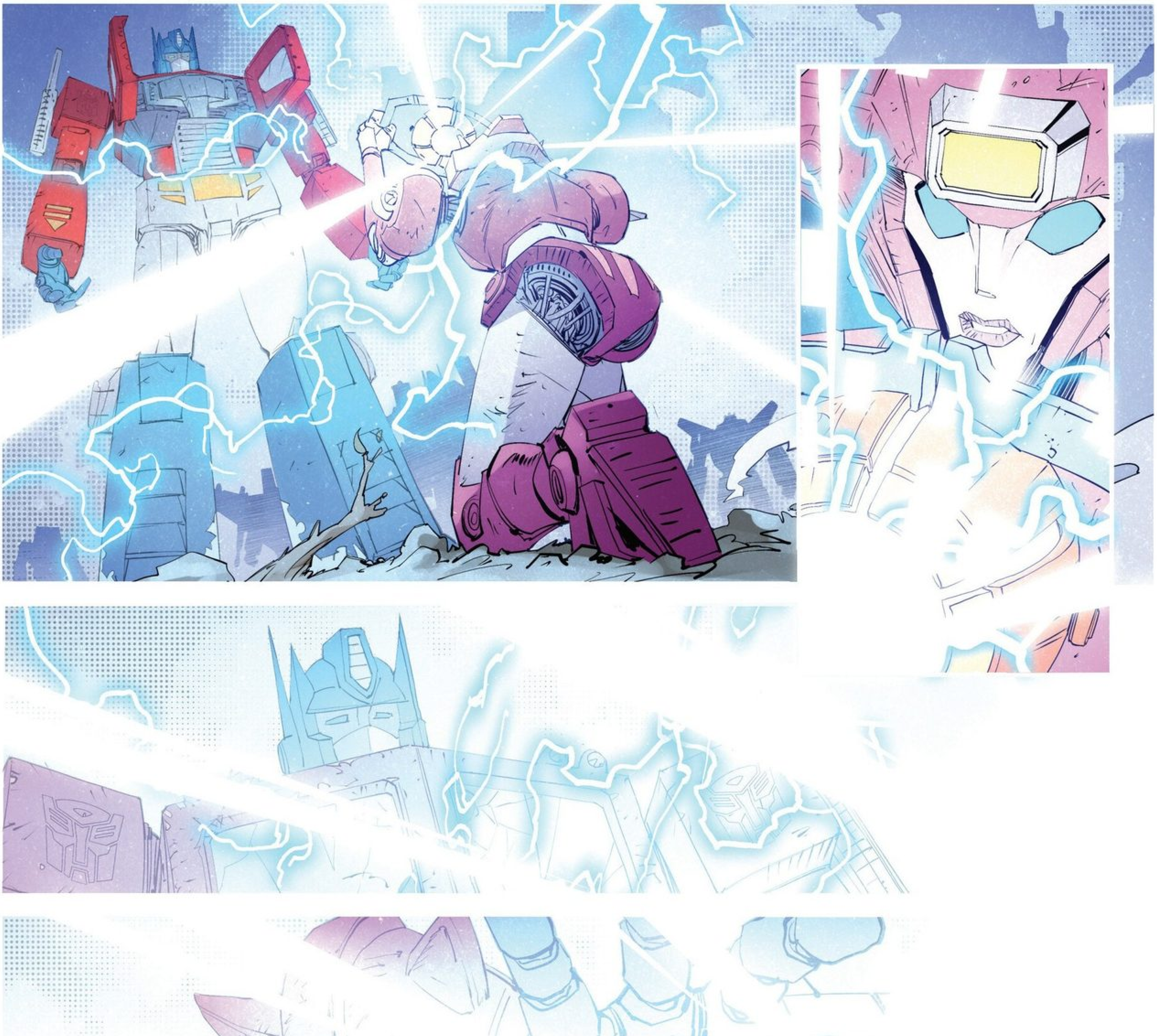

UNGH!
YOU ABANDONED YOUR POST! YOU DON'T DESERVE THE MATRIX OF LEADERSHIP!
GIVE IT TO ME!
WRAMM
UNNGH!
WRAMM

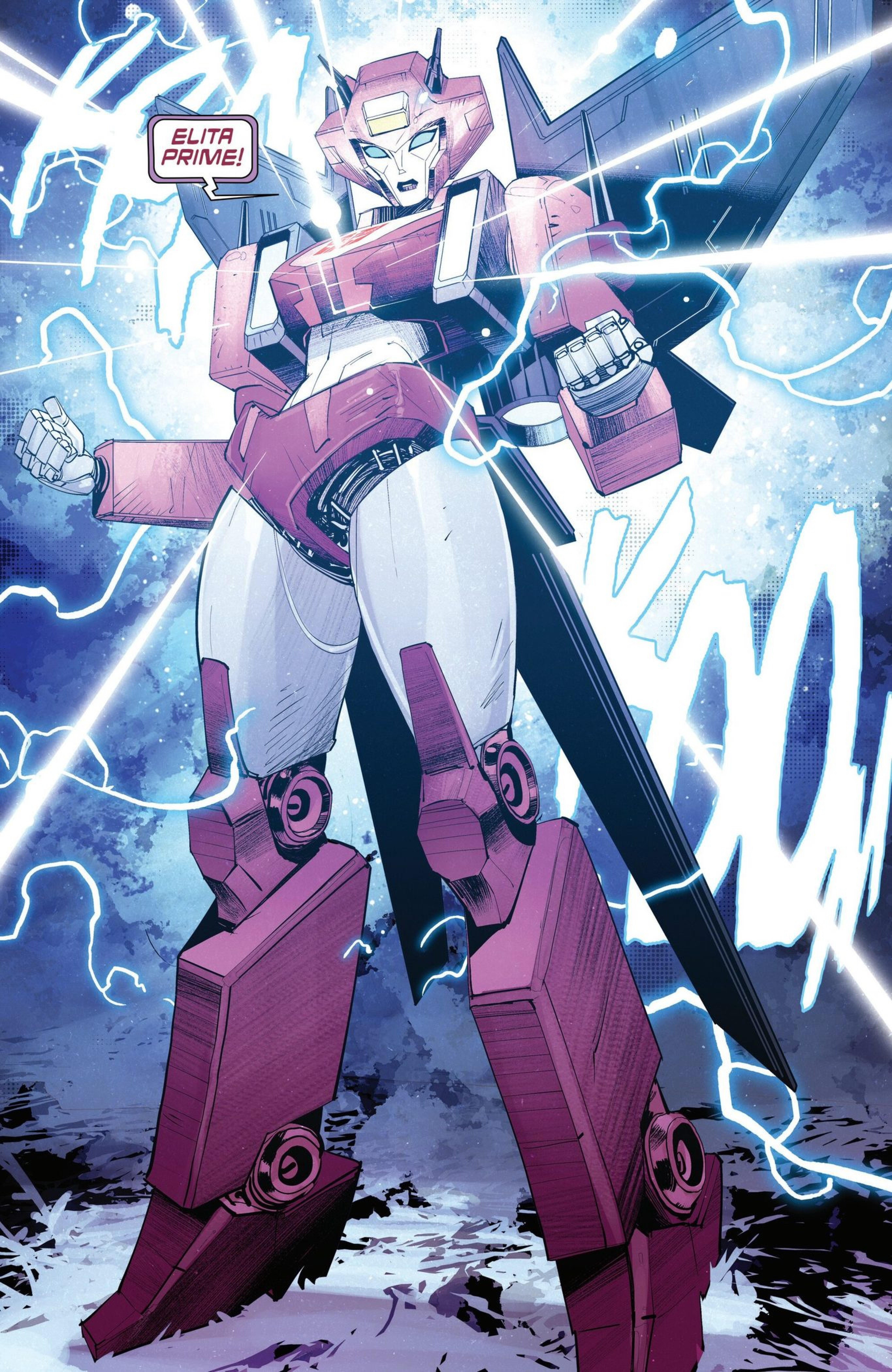


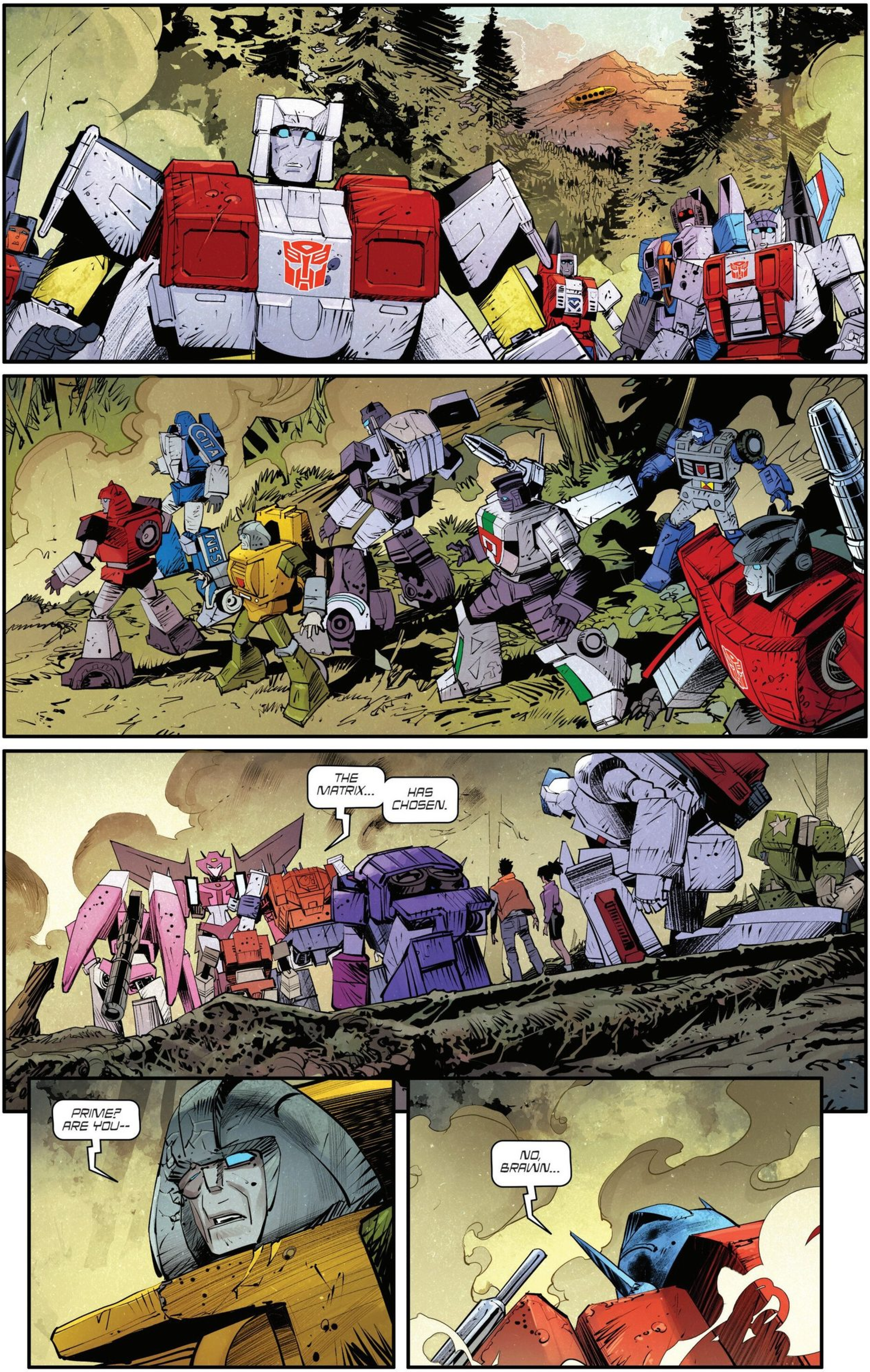

ENOUGH.
THAP!
ELITA, I... I UNDERSTAND.
OUR PEOPLE ARE DYING. THERE IS DEATH ALL AROUND US.
Y-YES.
YOU THINK I AM DISTRACTED HERE. THAT MY FOCUS IS NOT WHERE IT SHOULD BE.
I DO.
YOU FEEL YOU WOULD BE A BETTER LEADER THAN I HAVE BEEN... FOR OUR PEOPLE. ALL OUR PEOPLE.
I ONLY HOPE I CAN BE.

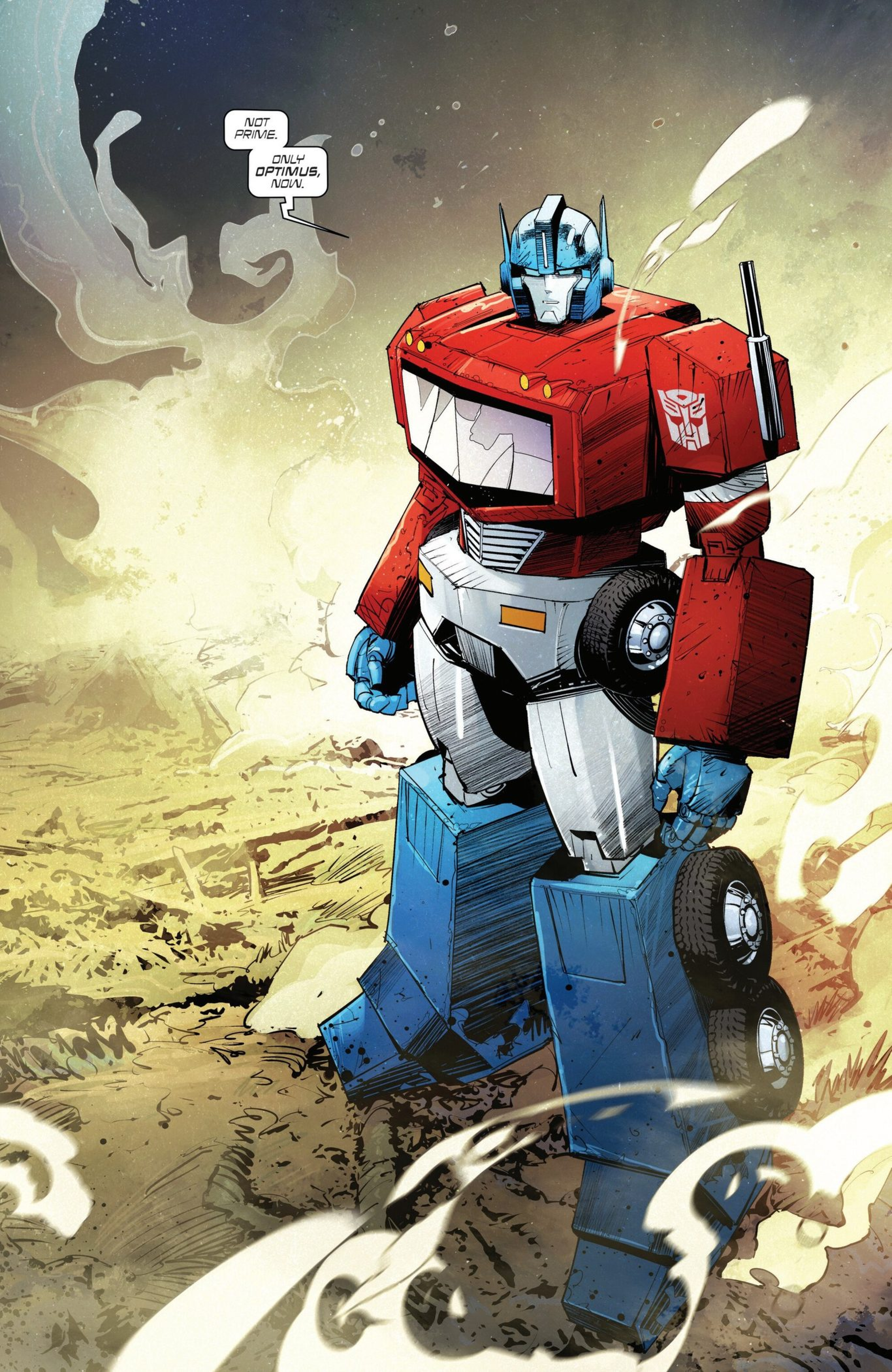

THE MATRIX CANNOT BE **TAKEN.** AUTOBOT LEADERSHIP CANNOT BE EARNED THROUGH VIOLENCE.
THAT IS **NOT** OUR WAY.
I AM SORRY.
YOU WERE GONE FOR **MILLIONS** OF YEARS. WHILE I... I'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR **SO** LONG THAT I... I WORRY I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE.
YOU BELIEVE THAT WHAT YOU ARE DOING IS **RIGHT.** IN TIME, IT COULD BE PROVEN THAT YOUR EFFORTS ARE JUST AND THAT MY TIME HERE, ON THIS PLANET...
IS A **MISTAKE.**
BUT I KNOW, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, **MY PLACE IS HERE.**
OUR WAR IS ON CYBERTRON. NOTHING WE DO CAN CHANGE THAT. MY FOCUS IS DIVIDED. MY EFFORTS, DIRECTED ELSEWHERE.
MAYBE YOUR STEADFAST DETERMINATION IS WHAT THE AUTOBOTS REQUIRE IN THESE DARK TIMES. MAYBE WE **DO** NEED A NEW LEADER.
BUT THAT LEADER...

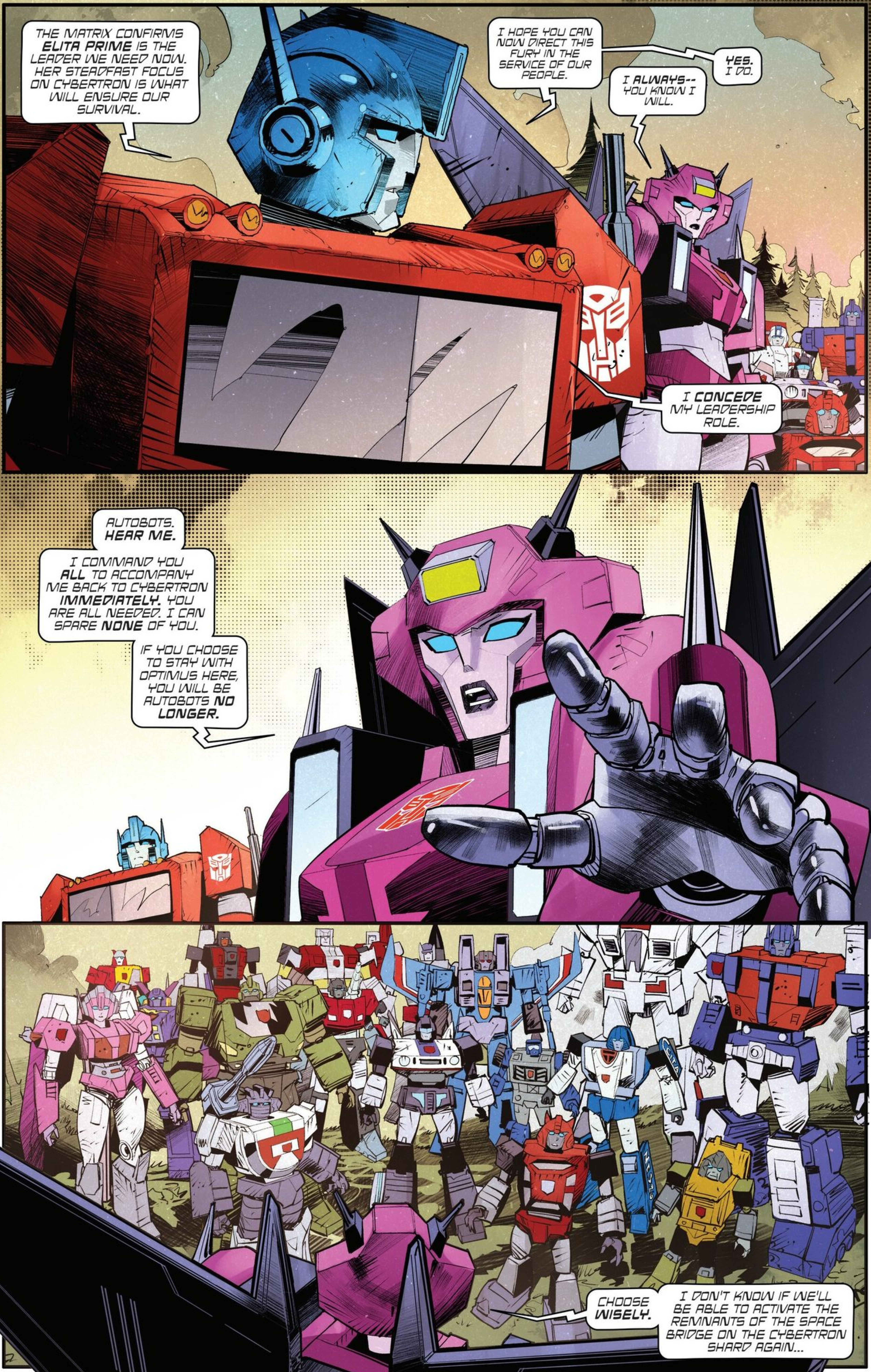

MUST BE CHOSEN.
...
OPTIMUS, NO...
NONE CAN DENY THE WILL OF THE MATRIX.

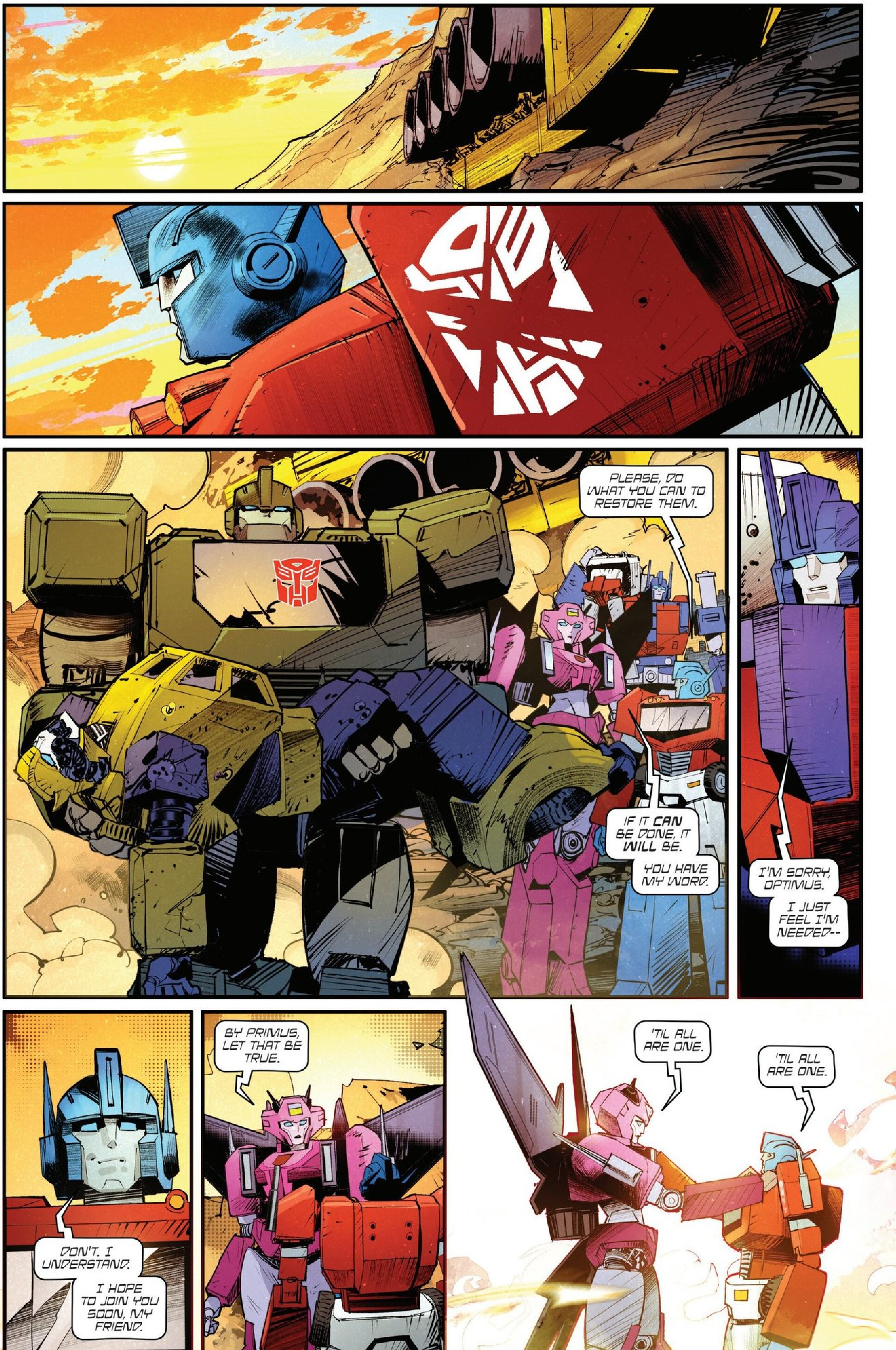

AUTOBOTS, YOU NOW FOLLOW...

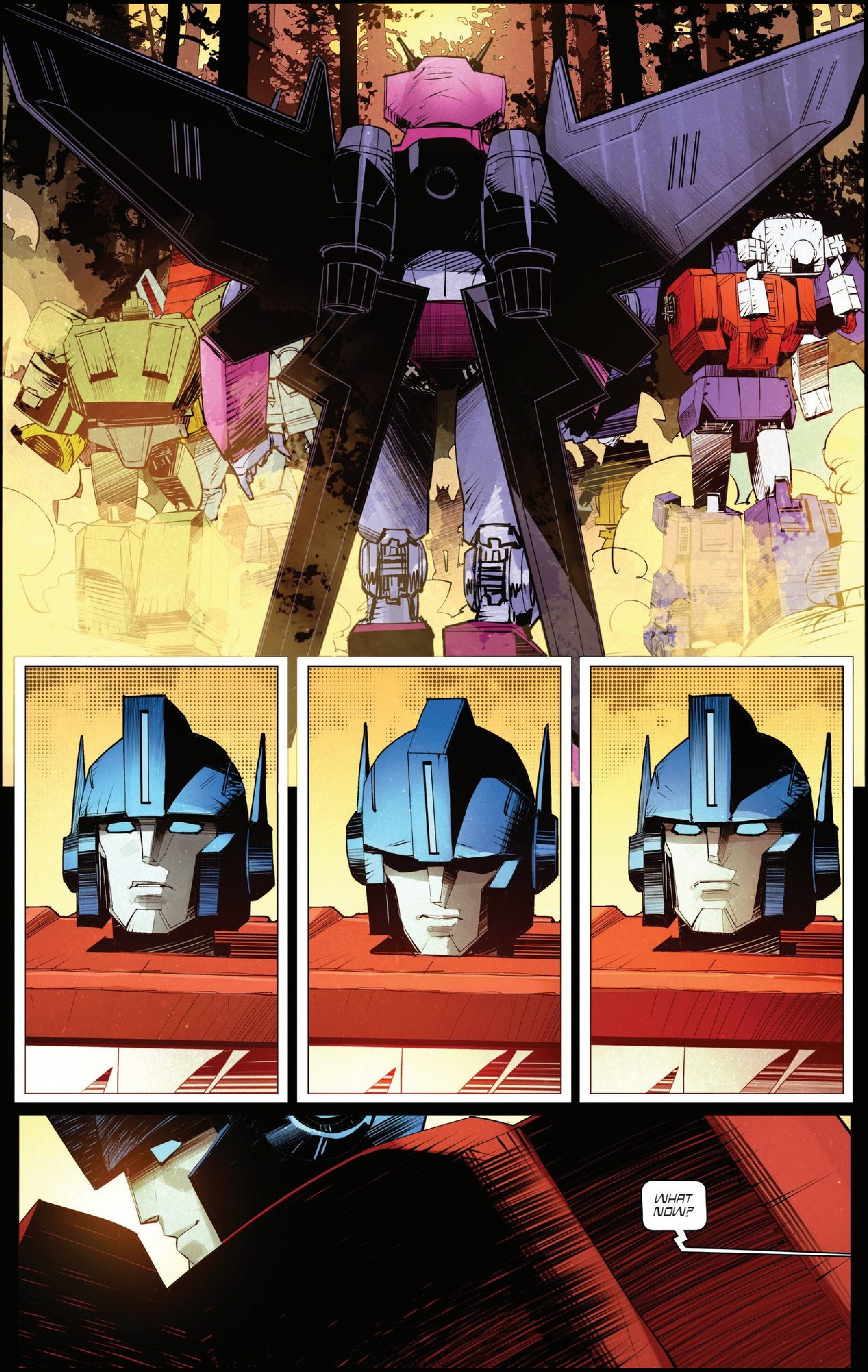

ELITA PRIME!
KRAKOOM

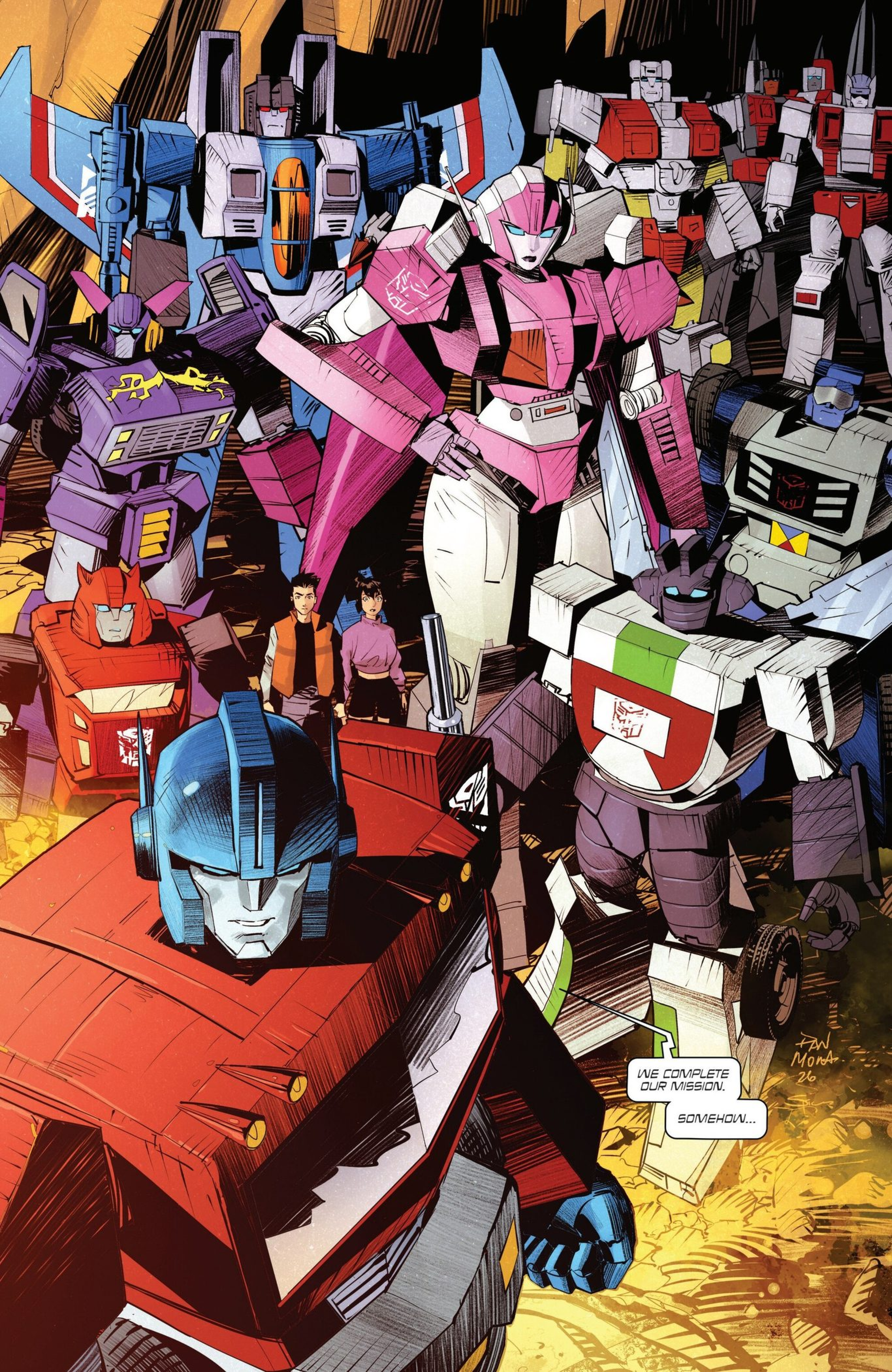

THE MATRIX...
HAS CHOSEN.
PRIME? ARE YOU--
NO, BRAWN...


NOT PRIME.
ONLY OPTIMUS, NOW.


THE MATRIX CONFIRMS ELITA PRIME IS THE LEADER WE NEED NOW. HER STEADFAST FOCUS ON CYBERTRON IS WHAT WILL ENSURE OUR SURVIVAL.
I HOPE YOU CAN NOW DIRECT THIS FURY IN THE SERVICE OF OUR PEOPLE.
I ALWAYS-- YOU KNOW I WILL.
YES. I DO.
I CONCEDE MY LEADERSHIP ROLE.
AUTOBOTS. HEAR ME.
I COMMAND YOU ALL TO ACCOMPANY ME BACK TO CYBERTRON IMMEDIATELY. YOU ARE ALL NEEDED. I CAN SPARE NONE OF YOU.
IF YOU CHOOSE TO STAY WITH OPTIMUS HERE, YOU WILL BE AUTOBOTS NO LONGER.
CHOOSE WISELY.
I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL BE ABLE TO ACTIVATE THE REMNANTS OF THE SPACE BRIDGE ON THE CYBERTRON SHARD AGAIN...


PLEASE, DO WHAT YOU CAN TO RESTORE THEM.
IF IT **CAN** BE DONE, IT **WILL** BE.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.
I'M SORRY, OPTIMUS.
I JUST FEEL I'M NEEDED--
DON'T. I UNDERSTAND.
I HOPE TO JOIN YOU SOON, MY FRIEND.
BY PRIMUS, LET THAT BE TRUE.
'TIL ALL ARE ONE.
'TIL ALL ARE ONE.


WHAT NOW?


WE COMPLETE OUR MISSION.
SOMEHOW...
DAN MORA 26

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

Holy cow--didn't see THAT coming did you?! We've been talking about this moment for so long, but to now finally see it…phew, a kick to the gut. And speaking of a kick to the gut, it's with a heavy heart that I want to say a great big THANK YOU to our artist over the last six issues, the incredible Dan Mora. His hard work, humor, and incredible skill was magic and he will be missed. Come back someday soon, Dan!

Like every month, I'm joined by the equally magical Robert Kirkman to answer some letters!

But before we do that, I will also echo your sentiments on the esteemed Dan Mora. Dan is an artist I've been following since he did Klaus with Grant Morrison. I've purchased his sketchbooks at conventions and I've had many an email conversation about us working together. I've kept a keen eye on his work and now that we've worked together, I'll keep an even keener eye on what he does next. It was a joy to do this arc with him and I, like all of you, will be waiting by my inbox in the hopes that he'll be able to come back to this book sometime.

So where does that leave us artistically? GREAT HANDS FOR SURE! Next issue will be drawn by LUDO LULLABI, who did a great job on issue #19 so we're thrilled to have him back, handling a VERY special issue that ties directly into both issue #19 and what exactly has been going on with that pesky Megatron lately. If you want more of Ludo make sure you check out his amazing book GHOST PEPPER coming out monthly from Skybound and Image Comics.

Then we'll be jumping right to issue #32 where none other than JASON HOWARD will begin a nice long run on the book. Jason handled the art chores of issues #13 and #14 of this fine series as well as drawing nearly a hundred variant covers for the various Energon Universe titles. So it's awesome to have him back and as someone I've been working with off and on for nearly… twenty…years…it's really great to be working with him again.

So don't worry, this series is in great hands. And there might, just might, still be some exciting surprises along the way! So, stay tuned for this exciting new era for TRANSFORMERS!

And I'll just add, as a die hard OPTIMUS PRIME fan, I know, I know…I prefer him with the face guard, too. Just…y'know…trust us. This is going to be cool. Cool stuff ahead.

Now let's answer some mail!

* * *

Hi Skybound team!

I've JUST got caught up today! So many great things in the past four issues ALONE.

I love that Thundercracker tries to convince Soundwave to switch teams by appealing to his feelings. Even though Soundwave appears to be all logic and loyalty on the outside, he really does have a heart for his minicons.

I'm also a huge fan of Arcee becoming the next Magnus. Correct me if I'm wrong, but is "Magnus" being a title passed down unique to the Energon universe? At any rate, great idea overall.

Also, on last thing: the whole Major Mayhem subplot made me want to pick up the G.I. Joes series, so great job draining my bank account for all it's worth!

Thank you all for handling Transformers with such care. I can tell through the art and writing that these bots are as close to you as they are to us.

With the utmost sincerity,
Nicki

Thank you for writing in, Nicki, but I won't apologize for helping contribute to the draining of your bank account haha. Glad you checked out G.I. JOE and if you're not already reading it, our third E.U. title, VOID RIVALS, is definitely worth giving a shot!

I agree! As to your Magnus question, maybe the way it's being passed down is original, but with the establishment of DELTA MAGNUS there have certainly been other Magnuses in Transformers lore prior to the Energon Universe.

* * *

BAH WEEP GRAHNA WEEP NINNY BONG, Energon Universe team! Recently read issue 28 (loved what you did to Arcee, absolutely hate what you did to Trailbreaker). Decided to ask some questions about the future of the next TF comics.

Question 1: It may be a bit early to ask this, but will there be other Titans than Omega Supreme, like Scorponok or Metroplex, showing up in future issues?

Depending on how you define "future issues", yes. Will they appear before the series ends? Certainly. Will they appear before

issue #100? Well…that is a question I can't answer.

Question 2: since I'm currently watching Transformers the movie 1986, I thought I'd ask if we'll get to see the Matrix get passed down to Arcee or still Magnus if Optimus goes grey.

Not to Arcee, but we got to see the Matrix passed down in this very issue!

Question 3: the battle in Chicago, that was a reference to Dark of the Moon, right? (I hope it's okay if I talk about Bayverse)

It's a reference to Dark of the Moon, for sure…but it's also just kind of a gag I have with myself. I've now destroyed Chicago in INVINCIBLE, FIRE POWER, TRANSFORMERS, and I'm sure a few other stories I've forgotten. I just think it's funny to pick on that fine town, but it was nice that it also serves as a callback to Dark of the Moon.

Final Question: what is Optimus and Megatron's relationship? Were they past friends, or was it the g1 meeting, with Megatron attacking Orion, Dion, and Ariel?

Well, that remains to be seen, doesn't it? I like that it's ambiguous for now, but it will get defined in the relative near future.

I'm excited to see what happens next in the Energon Universe, and even more Excited to see how accurate the TV series is gonna be!

The what?!

Til all are one, Lakota.

Thank you for the letter, Lakota. Some great questions!

Dear TF Team,

I would like to say that I have been a fan of this series since the beginning. I distinctly remember going into my local comic book shop and finding a cover of Ratchet fighting Starscream. And it had a lasting impact because I'm still collecting comics right now. Some of my favorite characters from this series are Soundwave, Thundercracker, Ultra Magnus, and Beachcomber (I literally have the legacy toy right beside me as I'm writing this). Cliffjumper is one of those characters I really like but always sad for when we see him. General Lawrence J. Flagg is a character I didn't expect to like. Though I keep thinking his name is Rick Flagg from DC Comics, but that's probably Dan Mora's art rubbing off on me (yes I did google his first name). Anyways, here are some of my personal requests and questions for the series.

1.) Are Slipstream and Blitzwing going to get revived in the series? If Blitzwing gets revived, can he have his 3 personalities from Transformers: Animated?

I do love Transformers: Animated…as is becoming clearer and clearer as my run progresses!

2.) Will we get another "origin issue" (like what we got with Megatron and Starscream). In particular, are we going to see Orion Pax become Optimus Prime and his rage from the beginning of the war?

I wouldn't rule it out!

3.) Are we going to see what Thundercracker was doing in Cobra-La in the next Energon Special?

Not in the next Energon Special, but soon we'll learn more.

4.) Can we have more Shredhead? Like can he have a bigger role in the issues?

Most definitely. I'm as frustrated as anyone that the events of the book have overshadowed us getting time to spend with Shredhead to get to know them. So stay tuned.

That's all for now! I look forward to seeing what's new in the next issue!
Vincent

Thank you for the letter and the support, Vincent!

To The Transformers Team,

WOW! WHAT AN ISSUE! Dan and Mike blew my mind with the Megatron attack sequence!

Transformers has upped the ante for the entire Energon Universe, nobody feels safe when Megatron can appear and deliver PERMANENT DEATH in a both beautiful and horrifying 3 pages.

I was fully carried away in the rise of Arcee Magnus and not at all prepared for Trailbreaker to be so swiftly taken away :(

That's how we get you!

A huge thank you to the entire team, and to DWJ and Jorge who worked on the last arc. My father raised me on Transformers, and sharing this series with him was a gift to us both.

Best wishes to you all, I can't wait for more!
Jake

I agree on all counts, Jake. Megatron reminded everyone why he's one of the best villains.

Hi Robert, Ben & Dan,

Just finished issue 28 of Transformers and boy is my mind blown. My congratulations to make me care about these buckets of bolts once again!

My favorite panels were the Miles Mayhem ones where he, voice calls the HTH remotely and escapes! That thing was my favorite toy growing up. Hasbro folks are re-releasing that thing in Feb 2026 and I might just pull the trigger!

Since we seeing so much M.A.S.K., will we get a solo or mini series for Matt and Miles and gang? Would be cool right? What do you guys think?

Stay tuned for a future announcement that may have happened before this issue shipped!

Also, Arcee getting an upgrade - a Magnus now wow. That was dope. I always confused her and Elita-1 as a kid.

P.S: Megatron was fire too in this issue!

Anyhoo, continue what you guys are cooking.

It's fabulous!
Lohit

Thank you for taking the time to write in, Lohit, and I'd imagine you've now heard that M.A.S.K. is officially joining the Energon Universe this summer and I hope you check it out--you won't be disappointed!

Oh, so it HAS been announced! That's right, DAN WATTERS and PYE PARR, who you'll know from the DESTRO mini-series and many, many covers for various Energon Universe books, are bringing you M.A.S.K. in JUNE which will be our FOURTH and final (for now) Energon Universe regular series! Joshua Williamson and I have been working closely with Dan to make sure this series meshes well with what we have planned in the four titles and believe me when I say, this M.A.S.K. series is going to blow you away!

Hi Skybound Team,

I've been a big Transformers fan ever since my dad showed me the original series, and this has been the first comic that I've really kept up with as it releases.

I think seeing Trailbreaker's destruction at the end of issue #28 gave me a deeper understanding of how it felt to watch the 1986 movie in theaters.

This might be the best compliment I've ever gotten.

Something I've been wondering is how you choose which characters to put in the story. Do you have a process or just pick characters that you like? Seeing Sideswipe without Sunstreaker feels like an unconventional choice, considering they've been written as twins most of the time, but I assume that there was some reasoning behind it.

Till all are one,
Ben

It's always good to hear from a fellow Ben! Trailbreaker's death was pretty stunning--when I first read the script I was really shocked! Damn you, Robert!

Heh! Should have given you a heads up on that one, Ben! Sorry. As far as picking characters, there's definitely a rhyme and a reason but that won't be completely clear until you see more of how the story unfolds. Sort of like how you might have read issue #27 and said, "This is way too many Autobots, what are they doing?" only to see the majority of them go back to Cybertron with Elita Prime at the end of this issue.

Hello Transformers team,

I had a bad feeling about poor Trailbreaker at the end of #26, but it is really hitting home just how brutal and nasty Megatron is and can be especially in front of his minions.

The role call page of all the Autobots was really cool and helpful both to someone like me who only became a fan with this current Skybound series.

The escape by Miles Mayhem and his acid spew was cinematic by Mora and the entire issue was just chock full of excitement so kudos to Kirkman and the entire team.

-Salute!
David

Thanks for writing in, David! And that roll call is one my all time favorite pages in the series!

Yeah, any time we can do anything that calls back to specific scenes from the original cartoon, I'm going to be very excited to do that.

See you next month when we welcome back the acclaimed Ludo Lullabi for another Megatron-centric issue…be well!

-Ben

Guys! Next issue is sooooooooooooo cool. I can't wait for you guys to see it! We're having so much fun here at Transformers Central!

-Robert

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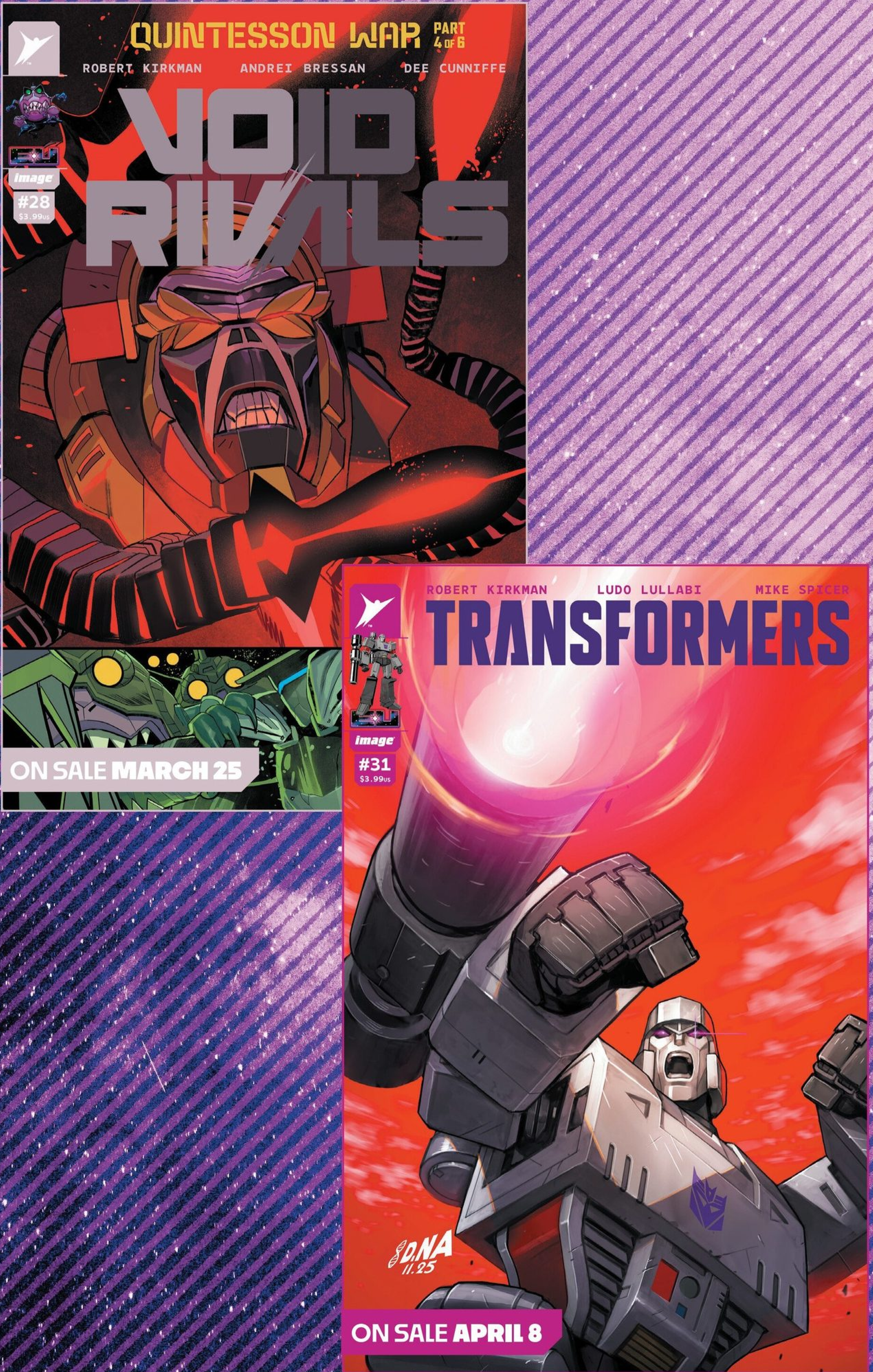
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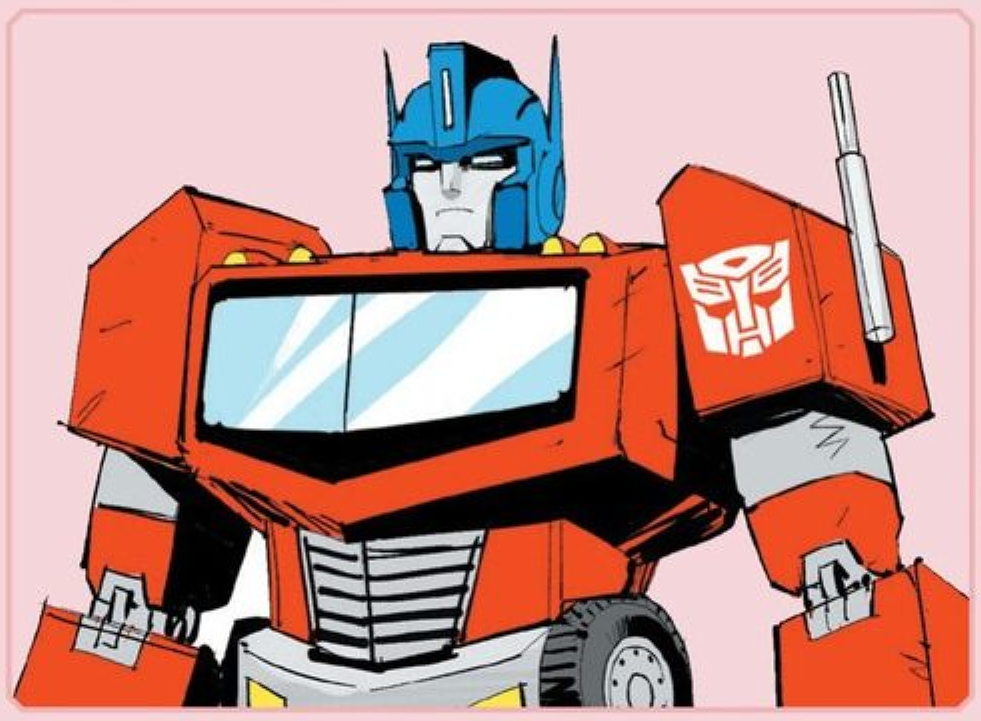
ENERGON EXPERIENCE

Now that the leadership of the Autobots is settled, both sides have a challenging path ahead. Optimus and his remaining forces on Earth have a tall order in their pursuit of Megatron. Elita Prime has an equally difficult challenge ahead, as even with a host of new bots ready to join the fight, the Decepticon forces rule much of Cybertron…what comes next will shock you!

Ben!

-Ben Abernathy, Executive Editor

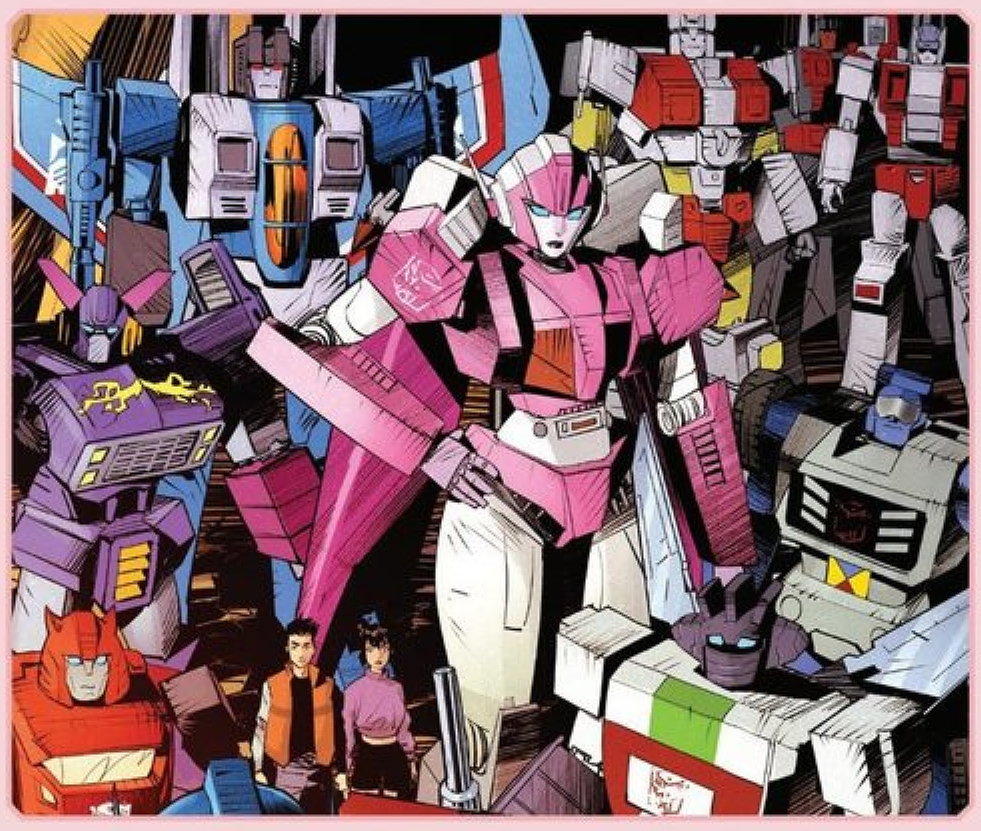


CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

WHO: Optimus

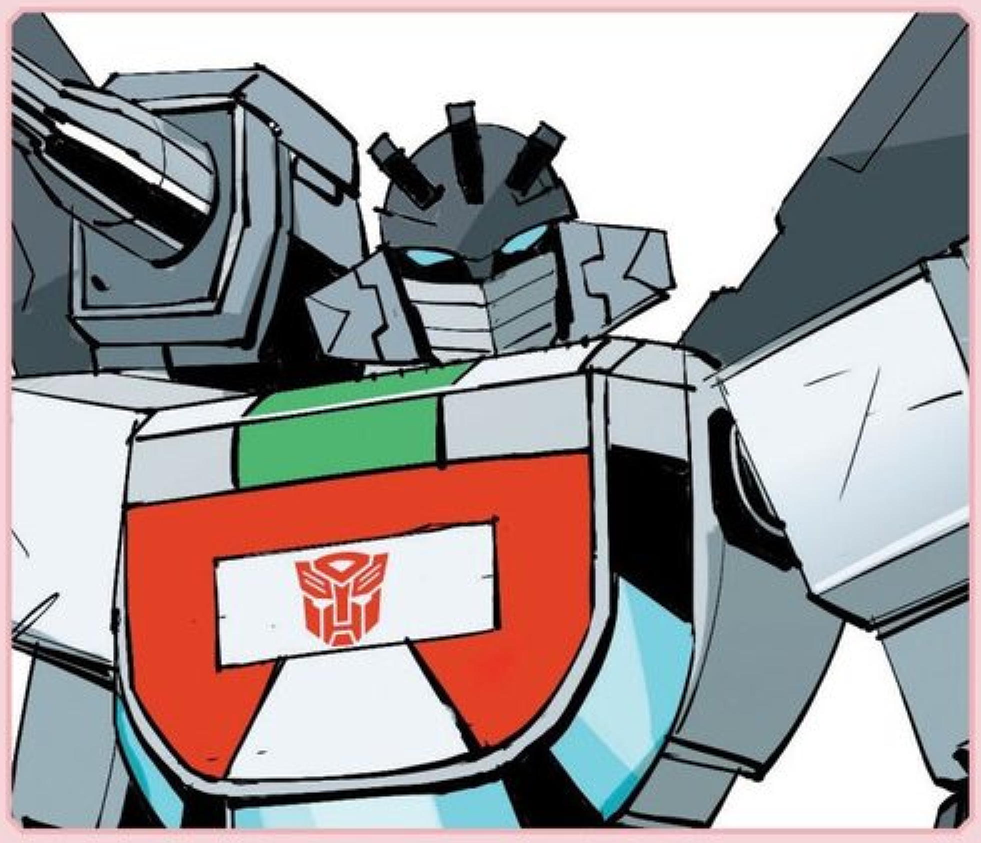
WHERE: A veteran Autobot warrior and former Prime.

WHAT: Having voluntarily passed the Matrix of Leadership to Elita-One, Optimus is now unburdened with the mantle of leadership and ready to hunt down Megatron and his remaining Decepticon forces on Earth.



'TIL ALL ARE NONE!

It's been Autobots vs Decepticons for eons, but after this stunning issue…is it Autobots vs Decepticons vs…Not-obots? Optimus Prime has faced impossible odds time and again…but are Optimus and his outcast bots up to the task?



CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

Q: It's bittersweet to ask this question, as Dan Mora's incredible arc is now complete and he will be leaving us… so I have to ask: Who was your favorite Transformer to draw, Dan?

A: Oh, that's a great question, I think I started to enjoy drawing Wheeljack more and more with every issue, Rumble was a fun one, too, and crazy Elita-1 was also fun to draw, haha!

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

☐ **TRANSFORMERS #30**
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☐ **G.I. JOE #20**
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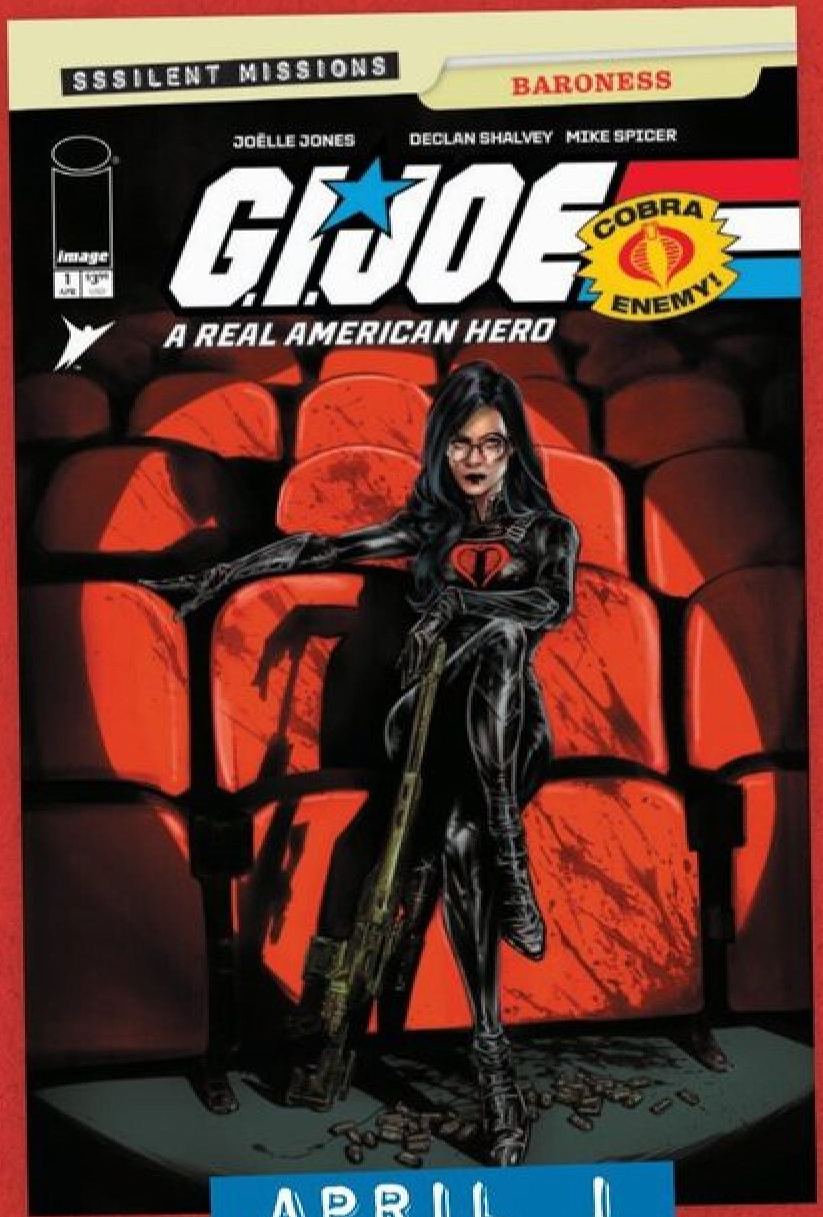
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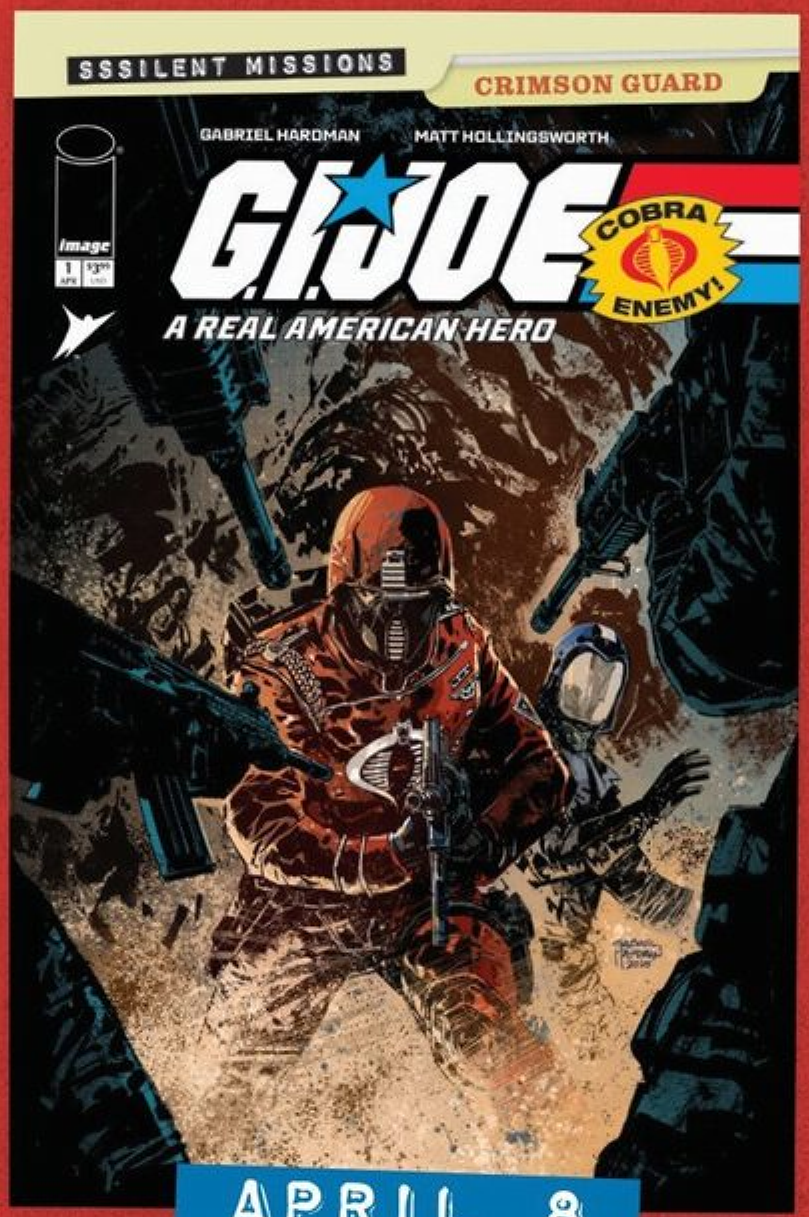
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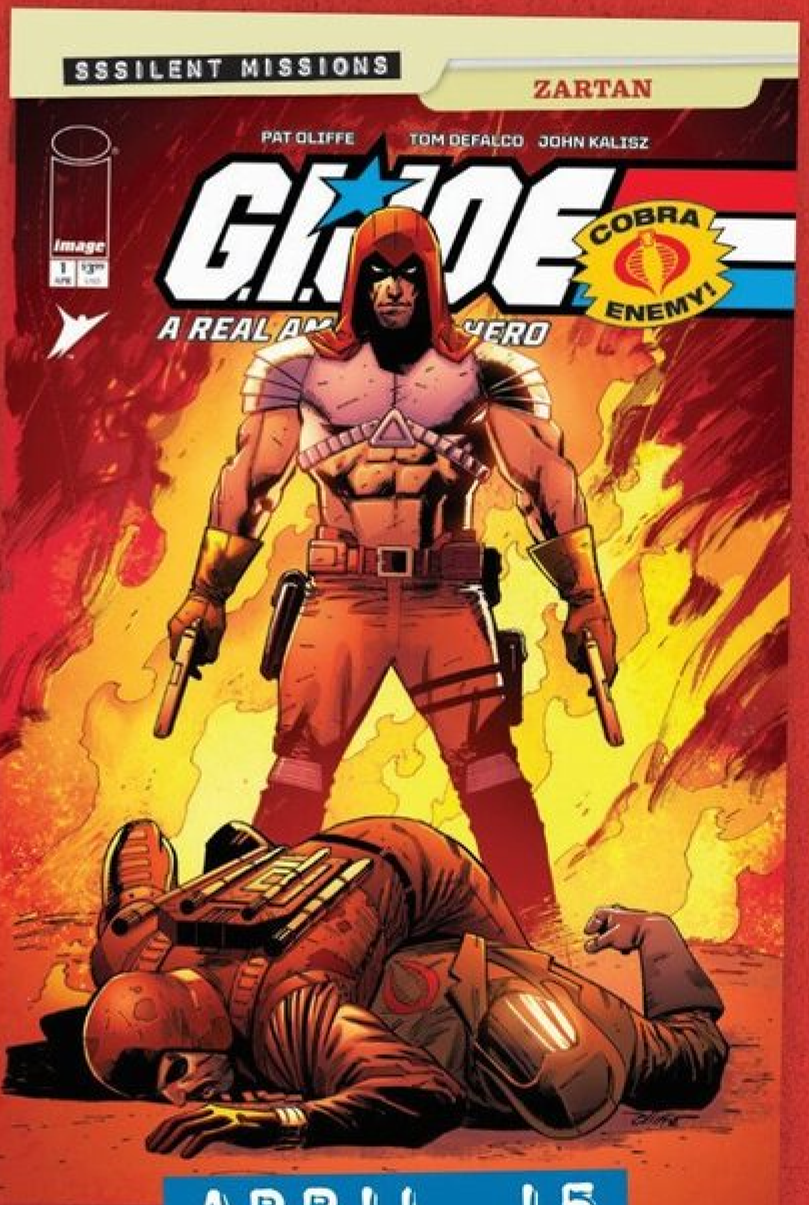
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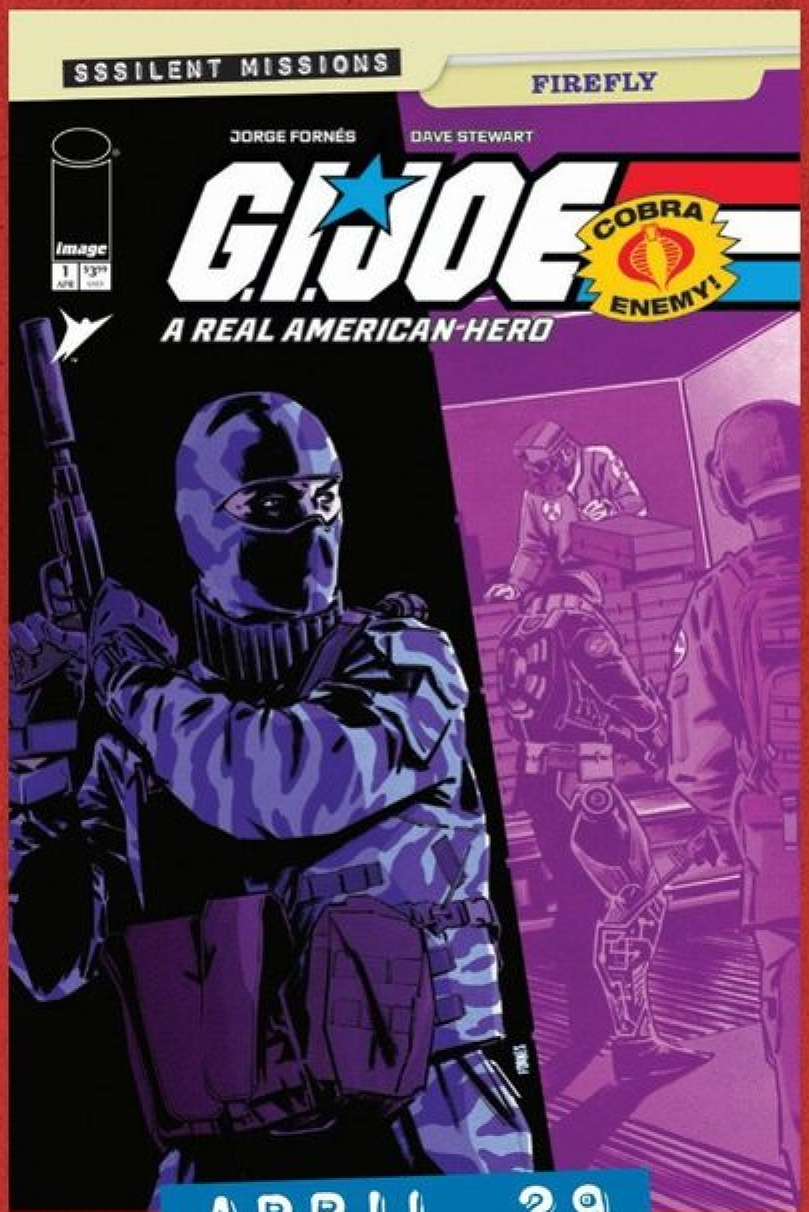
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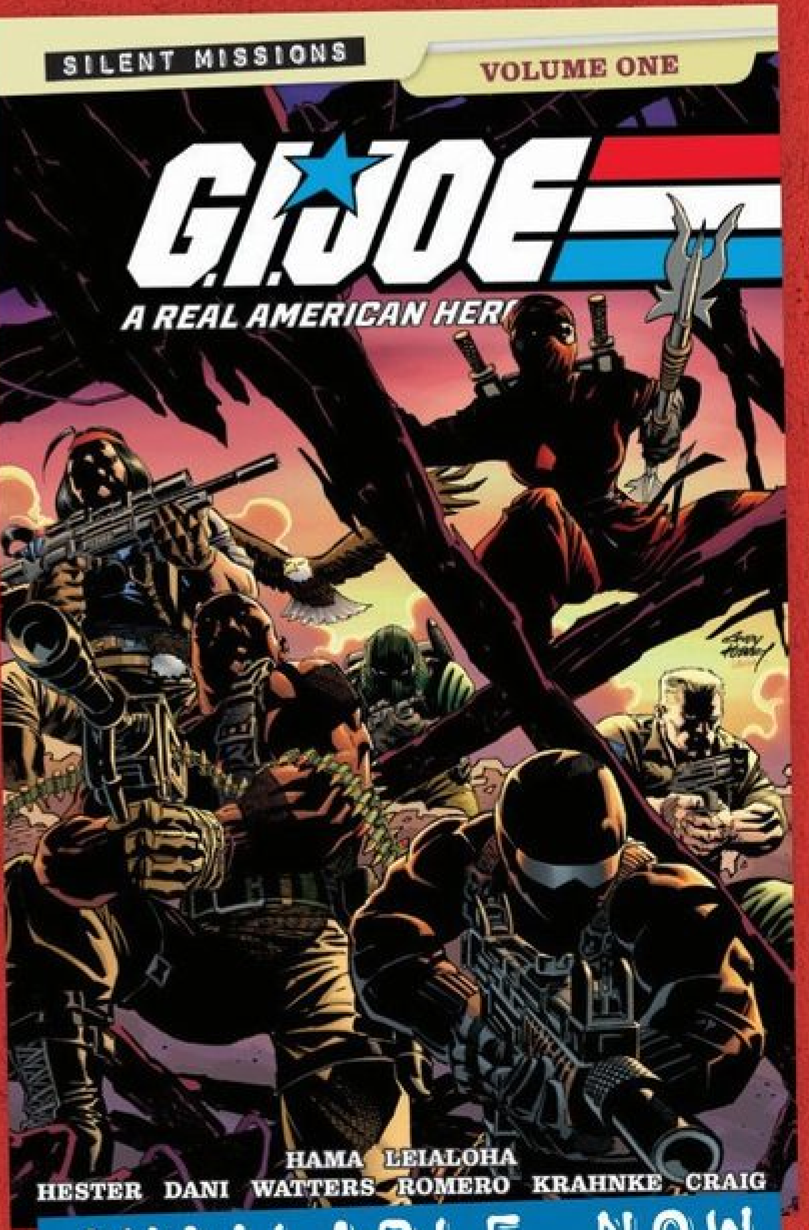
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